

# A Souvenir

1358



MELAPALAYAM COLONY

Ravi Arts

# *A Souvenir*

PUBLISHED ON THE OCCASION OF THE  
INAUGURATION OF  
MELAPALAYAM HOUSING COLONY  
IN LOWER BHAVANI COMMUNITY PROJECT  
OF COIMBATORE DISTRICT IN MADRAS STATE.

EDITOR :  
J. A. AMBASANKAR, M. A.,  
PROJECT EXECUTIVE OFFICER,  
ERODE.

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Cover Page Design by *Sri Doss*

Cover Page Printed at Hoe & Co., Madras.

## FOREWORD

This souvenir marks the inauguration of a new Rural Housing Colony achieved by the people with technical aid under the Lower Bhavani Community Project. The messages received on its advent are expected to give stimulus to those actually engaged in field work and encourage others to achieve similar results.

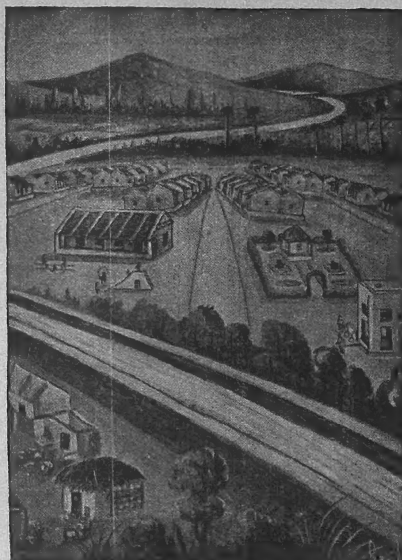
This Colony at Melapalayam, while providing houses mostly for low-income groups, has all modern amenities—school, park, protected water supply and sanitary conveniences. This Colony is also a measure of rehabilitation to persons affected by seepage due to the Lower Bhavani Irrigation Canal. The State Government have acquired and given house sites free to the affected persons besides Rs. 100/- for each family as subsidy for constructing new houses. The community has also participated in this good work by donations in cash as well as in kind and the Community Project has provided the necessary loan and technical assistance.

This Community Project covers areas benefited by the Lower Bhavani Irrigation Project which harnesses the waters in the lower reaches of the Bhavani river and irrigates the area which has been suffering from severe drought conditions year after year. While solving the question of irrigation, it created a new problem of seepage which resulted in damages to several habitations especially those of harijans in low lying areas. Thanks to the Community Project and the new spirit which it has kindled, several similar villages have sprung up on new sites thus providing good, ventilated habitations which are bound to improve the standard of living. Besides such houses, the Community Project has to its credit several roads, wells and medical and sanitary facilities to the long-neglected famine stricken people of this area. The Pilot Project recently started for providing the necessary aid for the development of small scale, cottage and village industries in this area is also slowly gaining ground and making headway. I am sure this souvenir will achieve its object and help to establish a happy community life in this part of the country.

Coimbatore, )  
1—8—1956. }

**R. C. Joseph,**  
*Collector of Coimbatore Dt.*

## COVER PAGE DESIGN



“RURAL reconstruction means planning of model villages where houses are neat and clean, where there are good schools and parks for children with adequate educational and recreational facilities, where the villages are well connected with the outside world and where the people are fully employed and prosperous. It is an all out effort to make available to the rural folk opportunities of living a full, happy and rich life and thus rise to their full stature”, observed Pandit Pant inaugurating the seminar on “Rural Reconstruction” held under the auspices of the farmers’ forum of India. These words have been translated into action in the new village of Melapalayam. Owing to seepage water from the irrigation canal most of the houses in this village have been damaged and rendered unfit for occupation. The entire village is being shifted to a new site. Fifty-five houses of approved designs have been constructed in well land out plots. There is a school, a park, a recreation centre, protected water supply and sanitary conveniences. Due provision has been made for future expansion. Our artist who has seen both the new and old villages has shown them in the picture with the irrigation canal in between them and the Lower Bhavani Dam in the distant background.

SHRI SRI PRAKASA,  
GOVERNOR,  
MADRAS STATE.



MADRAS GOVERNOR'S CAMP

2nd March, 1956.

*Best wishes for success in the  
endeavours to raise a new village at  
Melapalayam, with all facilities.*

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सत्यमेव जयते

VICE - PRESIDENT'S SECRETARIAT,  
NEW DELHI,

27th March, 1956.

*I am glad to know that the  
Lower Bhavani Community Project,  
Erode, has been doing good work for  
the community development programme  
of the area. I hope it will continue  
to do useful work for the country.*

*S Radhakrishnan*



GOVERNOR, ORISSA

RAJ BHAVAN  
CUTTACK

14th March, 1956.

I am glad to learn that the Lower Bhavani Community Project authorities, apart from extending irrigation facilities changing the face of the economy of the region, are also helping villagers to build pucca houses wherever their old houses have fallen due to seeping of irrigation canal water through its porous bunds. This kind of help is most commendable, particularly as the village poor have had to suffer inconvenience because of the new irrigational facilities which seek rather to benefit the more affluent landed gentry. I am happy that besides granting loans for house construction, free technical assistance is also offered to the villagers by the Project staff and that one such colony at Melapalayam complete with all facilities like protected water supply, drainage, a school and a park is expected to be made available for occupation next month. I congratulate the Project authorities on their achievement and send them my best wishes for further such triumphs in the field of rural rehabilitation. I also wish the new village all prosperity.

*P. S. Kumaraswamy Raja.*



RAJ BHAVAN,  
PACHMARHI.

12th May, 1956.

I gladly send you the message that you have asked of me in relation to the new village that is nearing completion at Melapalayam due to the combined efforts of the villagers and the Project staff, the Project referred to being the Lower Bhavani Community Project. These Projects have simultaneously converted many a jungle into mangal, and wherever either the original four Community Projects or the later hundreds of National Extension Service schemes have been taken up, you have the old arid waste converted into patches of green and gold. An object lesson has been taught to the people near at hand. Many old enmities have been wiped out, many new friendships have been formed and many new centres of co-operation have sprung up. It is thus that India is altogether transformed as a result of these beneficent activities.

*B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya,*

Governor,

Madhya Pradesh.



MINISTER FOR HEALTH  
INDIA  
NEW DELHI

19th March, 1956.

The Minister congratulates all concerned  
and sends her good wishes.

*Rajkumari Amrit Kaur,*  
Union Minister for Health.

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MINISTER FOR WORKS,  
HOUSING & SUPPLY,  
INDIA.

Camp : SIMLA,

25th June, 1956.

It is heartening to note that the Community Project staff has undertaken to help the villagers in the Lower Bhavani Irrigation Scheme area in finding better accommodation in spacious and well-ventilated houses. The Community Projects Administration is, in fact, not only carrying the message of **Better Housing** to our villages but is also taking active steps to help the villagers to construct these houses and to improve the existing ones with their own labour and resources. I wish every one associated with this noble enterprise my best wishes for success.

*Swaran Singh.*



MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE,  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.  
NEW DELHI

21st March, 1956.

I am glad to learn that the Lower Bhavani Community Project, Erode, proposes to publish a Souvenir on the occasion of the opening of a colony at Melapalayam, which, I understand, has been built through the combined efforts of the villagers and the project staff.

Indeed, it is not only essential for project authorities to supervise the efforts of villagers and guide them in such reconstruction activities, but also to publicise this suitably so that others elsewhere - both people and project authorities - may be induced to follow the laudable example of establishing more new colonies.

I hope the Community Project authorities at Erode will continue in their endeavour to rejuvenate rural life in that region.

*P. S. Deshmukh.*



DEPUTY MINISTER FOR HEALTH  
INDIA  
NEW DELHI

21st March, 1956.

Melapalayam is an example of the enthusiasm and interest our villagers display in the reconstruction of our country. The success of our Five Year Plans depends upon the extent of co-operation given by the people. I congratulate the villagers of Melapalayam and the staff of the Community Project on their excellent achievement.

*M. Chandrasekhar,*  
Deputy Health Minister.

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**Dr. P. V. CHERIAN**  
CHAIRMAN  
MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FORT ST. GEORGE  
MADRAS  
ERNA DOONE,  
OOTACAMUND,  
21st May, 1956.

*I am very glad to hear that a new village is being established at Melapalayam due to the efforts of the Community Project staff in the Lower Bhavani Project area. India is a country full of villages and they have to be properly looked after by people who are better organised and better placed. To start a model village in Melapalayam is a very commendable effort and I congratulate those concerned on this. I wish the project every success.*

*P. V. Chierian.*



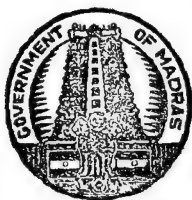
*The aim of Community Projects is to bring about a general increase in the standard of living in the rural areas. The most important problems are those relating to food, clothing and housing.*

*With a view to tackle the problem of housing Government have sanctioned a scheme for the grant of loans for construction of houses and the rules and the procedure for the grant of loan have been simplified to suit the needs of the rural population. I am glad to find that the scheme has proved a great success in the Lower Bhavani Project area and that hundreds of houses have been constructed taking advantage of the scheme. What is of greater significance in the construction of houses in the Lower Bhavani area is that the Community as a whole has united in providing houses for the needy.*

*Apart from the general problem of rural housing in other areas, the Lower Bhavani area has a peculiar problem as several of the existing houses have become uninhabitable owing to seepage of water and I am glad to find that this problem is being tackled with the assistance given by the Government. Public spirited men who have contributed land, materials etc., for these houses and the project staff who have provided necessary technical guidance deserve all praise for making this scheme a success.*

*M. Bhaktavatsalam.*

**C. SUBRAMANIAM**  
MINISTER FOR FINANCE & EDUCATION



FORT ST. GEORGE  
**MADRAS - 9**

4th July, 1956.

*I am glad to learn that the Community Project Administration at Erode is helping the villagers who are affected by the seepage water of the Lower Bhavani Canal to build new villages by giving to the affected persons, loans to the extent of Rs. 750/- per house. It is gratifying to note that the Melapalayam village has been reconstructed under the scheme and will soon become available for habitation by the villagers. I hope the new village will serve as a model for other villages in regard to the provision of sanitary arrangements, drinking water facilities and other amenities necessary for village life. I wish the villagers of Melapalayam a new and happy life in the new surroundings*

**C. Subramaniam.**

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**K. SANTHANAM**

"SUNDARA"  
RAJAJI NAGAR  
PALLAVARAM  
**MADRAS**

27th March, 1956.

*I have great pleasure in sending my good wishes to the Lower Bhavani Community Project's souvenir. I am particularly glad to note that special steps are being taken to enable the villagers to organise new villages and build new houses therein. Many of the present villages are so situated and formed that no effective improvements can be made therein. The success of the Community Projects and Extension centres will largely depend upon persuading the people to make a new start in better surroundings.*

**K. Santhanam.**

# SRI RAMAKRISHNA MISSION VIDYALAYA

SRI RAMAKRISHNA VIDYALAYA P. O.  
PERIANAICKENPALAYAM R. S.  
COIMBATORE DT.

12th May, 1956.

*I am glad to know about the Souvenir that you are publishing on the occasion of the opening of a colony at Melapalayam. I am very happy to know about the good work that you are doing in that area. I wish your work all success and, I hope the people will get increasingly conscious of their part in the great work of the development of this country and give their best co-operation in the matter.*

**T. S. Avinashilingam.**

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**Mr. JUSTICE P. RAJAGOPALAN**

6, KALYANI MAHAL,  
EDWARD ELLIOT ROAD,  
MYLAPORE,  
MADRAS - 4.

20th March, 1956.

*Those in charge of Community Projects are doing splendid work. The idea of publishing a souvenir is a good one. I wish your work in Melapalayam every success.*

**P. Rajagopalan.**

**A. S. P. AYYAR, M A., I. C. S., F. R. S. L.**  
BAR - AT - LAW  
HIGH COURT JUDGE

"GITA"  
1 - B, COLLEGE ROAD,  
MADRAS - 31.

21st April, 1956.

I am extremely glad to learn about the opening of a Colony at Melapalayam under the Community Projects Scheme. If India is to become a great Welfare State on the Socialist Pattern, as desired by all of us, it must become a network of such planned Colonies which alone can fight the Demons of Casteism, Stateism and Linguism and the terrible cankers of Poverty, Disease, Ignorance, Idleness and Atheism. Without Community thinking, Communalism will never be uprooted. Without concrete action, nothing valuable can be achieved. Our Vedas have proclaimed, six thousand years ago, "Think together, speak together, act together, pray together". Let us follow those grand ideals, and all will be well. I wish your function every possible success. Jai Hind!

*A. S. P. Ayyar.*

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**JUSTICE KRISHNASWAMI NAYUDU.**

**MADRAS.**

30th April, 1956.

It is gratifying to note that the Community Projects Scheme has caught the imagination of the public and is really useful in improving the social amenities of the village folk. The opening of a colony at Melapalayam is a step in the right direction, as one of the important aspects of village life, which require immediate attention, is to give the villagers a healthy and sanitary habitation. Such colonies will help the villagers to live a more healthy life.

I wish the Scheme every success.

*W. S. Krishnaswami.*

27th April, 1956.

*The community projects which have been working in various parts of our country for some time past are quite a novel and unique experiment. Ordinarily, all projects and schemes undertaken by the Government were used to be carried out by the efforts of the Government, through its officials, without any reference to the public at large. This project for the first time introduces into such schemes the most essential element of public co-operation. There can be no question of any large projects and schemes ever succeeding in a full measure without the co-operation of the people. The community projects are novel and unique, because they generate a spirit of enthusiasm and interest in the minds of the people and bring them into active co-operation in the various beneficent activities carried on under the auspices of the community projects. In other words, it is in the execution of such projects in our country that we find evidence of both the Government and the people actively co-operating for the re-construction of our country into a great Nation. It will not be an exaggeration to say that the people, official and non-official, who are engaged in the execution of these and similar projects, are the builders of a new India which is rising in the horizon.*

*It is particularly appropriate that the area included in the ayacut of Lower Bhavani Project is also covered by the community project. The combined implementation of the two projects will undoubtedly lead to the prosperity of this locality and completely change its face. Both the projects are still in the experimental stage and require a great deal of careful and anxious handling on the part of all concerned. The village of Melapalayam, where a new colony is springing into existence, is an instance of the canal waters seeping through the soil in large quantities, — a waste which the authorities should take early steps to prevent. While such is the position in some places, there are localities in which the waters do not reach in sufficient quantities even for ordinary irrigation. Such scarcity must be avoided by the wastage being plugged in places where it takes place.*

*On the whole, the prospects are bright, and no one need feel pessimistic as to the success of both the schemes, — the Lower Bhavani Irrigation Project and the Community Project. They will bring a new hope and a new glow to the hearts and minds of the people of the locality in ever-increasing measure.*



Telegram : UNISERCOM.

MEMBER,  
UNION PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.  
DHOLPUR HOUSE,  
NEW DELHI,

8th March, 1956.

I am glad that a Souvenir about the Community Project at Melapalayam is to be published. During my Speakership, the Lower Bhavani Project was started and completed. The effect of the irrigation project on the villagers was well-known to me as a number of interpellations were asked about it in the Legislature. I am glad that the village has been brought under the Community Project and it is to be opened shortly. May God bless those who live in the Project and those who are responsible for it.

*J. Sivashunmugam Pillai,*

Member,

Union Public Service Commission

**DR. RAJAH SIR MUTHIAH CHETTIAR  
OF CHETTINAD**

CHETTINAD HOUSE,  
ADYAR,  
RAJAH ANNAMALAIPURAM P. O.  
MADRAS - 28.  
2nd May, 1956.

I am happy to know that a colony at Melapalayam in the Lower Bhavani Project area is being opened by the Rural Development Projects Department and I am sure under your able guidance as Executive Officer of Community Projects many colonies will be formed in the Coimbatore District. I wish your endeavours to open more colonies all success.

I have much pleasure in congratulating you and the staff of your department on your effort in opening the colony at Melapalayam.

*M. A. Muthiah Chettiar.*

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**Dr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AIYAR**  
VICE - CHANCELLOR

BANARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY  
BANARAS - 5  
THE GROVE,  
MADRAS - 18,  
6th April, 1956.

Dr. C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar thanks the Project Executive Officer, Lower Bhavani Community Project for his circular letter of the 20th of February 1956 and wishes success to the publication of the Souvenir in connection with the opening of a colony at Melapalayam.

## COMMUNITY PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION, PLANNING COMMISSION.

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A home is something which is not merely a combination of bricks, sand, mud, mortar and lime. Instead it is a place for repose, ensuring peace to the soul dwelling within. Life, if it has to have a meaning, cannot be put inside a cage. So it was, that our homes were thrown open to the wide wide world, and what it contained, was open to all. That way the barriers that divide man from man, disappear. Man grows to be the member of a wider community. When we talked of Community Projects we had the creation of this as our major objective.

Sweat has no caste, religion or politics. Therefore, when muscles are wielded on the common task and sweats blend, a new spirit is forged. Instead of being an individual possession, the product of the muscles belongs to the community. May the village near Melapalayam, which is soon to emerge into a concrete shape, be the forerunner of many others to follow till we cover the entire land we call India, and may its villages reverberate with the music of the muscles at work, the voices of the children intermingling in sports and songs in the twilight or under the starlit sky greeting the world without?

*S. K. Dey.*

23-3-1956.

*The Community Project Staff, Erode, deserve to be congratulated on the manner in which they have taken up the work of reconstruction in their area for which there is considerable scope as it is served by the Lower Bhavani Project which is nearing completion. I am glad to hear that as a result of their efforts, new villages are gradually springing up since my last visit to the area. I am very glad to hear that Melapalayam, the first of these villages, with protected water supply, drainage, a school and a park will be available for occupation in April 1956.*

Board of Revenue, }  
 Chepauk,  
 Madras,  
 16th March, 1956. }

**V. N. KUDVA, I. C. S.,**  
*First Member, Board of Revenue.*

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The new colony at Melapalayam is an example of what the spirit of self-help among the villagers and co-operation among different sections of the population can achieve by way of improving living conditions in rural areas. I wish the new colonists all happiness and success in their endeavours. May the colony be the forerunner of many similar co-operative efforts in the future.

Fort St. George, }  
 Madras,  
 3-3-1956. }

**T. N. S. Raghavan,**  
*Development Commissioner,*  
*Madras.*

**T. S. RAMACHANDRAN, I. C. S.**

**INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF PRISONS.**

**MADRAS.**

I had the privilege of watching the Lower Bhavani Project earthen dam from its commencement. I had the pleasure, on the 5th of March 1956, five years later, of seeing the food and life-giving waters flowing near Satyamangalam. As I expected in respect of the Malampuzha Project, the underground veins in Mother Earth capable of holding water have been filled and many wells are supplying potable drinking water also.

The first prime need is water to drink and the next prime need is food to eat. Housing comes next and it is bad news to hear that some houses constructed during dry times have fallen. But as Tennyson says "Men my brothers, men, the workers," have risen to the occasion and built spacious well ventilated houses to replace the old fallen habitations. The old order hath changed giving place to new and may God bless those who live in cleaner houses built on rock to live the fuller life which a Socialistic Pattern of Society is opening to the nation.

*T. S. Ramachandran.*

R. M. SUNDARAM, I. C. S.  
SECRETARY, P. W. D.

FORT ST. GEORGE,  
MADRAS - 9

28th April 1956

*The public have realised the importance of Community Project Work in the State and have co-operated with the Government in a large measure. This has resulted in very valuable amenities being provided in our villages. What is more a spirit of competition amongst villagers in Rural uplift work has become evident. The success of these projects is, in a large measure, due to the enthusiasm of the officers entrusted with the responsibility of carrying out the various schemes.*

*I wish them all success.*

*R. M. Sundaram.*  
28-4-1956

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*I understand from the Project Executive Officer, Erode, that a new village is about to be inaugurated at Melapalayam in order to accommodate the villagers affected by the Lower Bhavani Project. It is gratifying to know that an attempt has been made to construct a model village with modern facilities like protected water supply, drainage, a school and a park. There is not the slightest doubt that the new spirit of renaissance in the air of free India has given an impetus to the villagers to better the existing state of things. In this task of reconstruction and rehabilitation, the Community Project Officers have a great responsibility and a tremendous opportunity for achievement. I am sure that the effective co-operation between them and the villagers will result in the imparting of a new look to our rural areas.*

S. K. CHETTUR,  
Secretary to Government,  
Revenue Department,  
Government of Madras

## OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE, MADRAS.



The Lower Bhavani Project in Coimbatore district is the outcome of an attempt made as early as 1934. Even though the scheme was investigated a number of times, it came to be taken up after the early 30's in all seriousness. Having regard to the topography of the district and the nature of the soil, as also the fertility, it was decided to work the scheme as a purely dry-irrigation scheme as against the usual wet-irrigation scheme. Thus, unlike in other irrigation projects, water is let out for raising a dry crop and in this way very much larger area can be benefitted than in a purely wet scheme. This idea was later copied in the Thungabhadra Project also.

As this scheme was a new one, considerable amount of investigation preceded the actual taking up of the Project. In the course of the investigations suitable crops to be grown, the proper seasons and the optimum amount of water to be given at the different stages were worked out in clear detail. Even at that time it was visualised that the advent of irrigation canals across a tract which was entirely dry would have the effect of raising the sub soil water and thereby afford increased lift irrigation facilities. At one time it was also seriously contemplated not to allow any gravitational flow but to provide only blind channels with water stagnation, whereby the sub-soil water would be raised in a vast tract in Coimbatore district. The idea came to be given up later based upon several other considerations.

This probability of water table being considerably raised, as visualised in the course of the earlier investigations, has now become a *Fait Accompli*, and in some areas it has also created new problems in the villages adjoining the banks of the new canals. The seepage of water has been far more copious than expected, and situations very near to marshy conditions have also been brought about. On this account walls

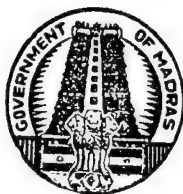
of houses have fallen and buildings in general are not stable. This has necessitated the shifting of entire village sites to higher levels farther away from the banks of the canals. This problem of finding new habitation has been one among the items taken up by the Lower Bhavani Community Project development administration. This shifting of existing village sites is also a blessing in disguise, as it gives scope to formation of new villages on improved lines. One such new village formed is Melapalayam, where with the financial assistance from the community Development funds, fine new houses of an approved pattern have sprung up where all facilities like protected water supply, drainage, school, park and other village amenities are amply provided for in a well ordered manner. This village demonstrates the happy result from an affliction caused by a new canal project. The affliction is only to a few people. The canal project benefits several hundreds of people. Even for the few people the affliction has given new homesteads in an improved setting. This is a standing example of our people's ingeniousness in eking out affluent progress out of distress. This is a shining example of what our people can do for themselves by themselves with a little marginal assistance from Government.

I wish the new village all prosperity.

*P. P. I. Vaidyanathan,*

*Director of Agriculture.*

**N. E. S. RAGHAVACHARI, I. C. S.**  
ADDL. DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONER



**FORT ST. GEORGE  
MADRAS**

26th April 1956.

*Food, clothing and housing are the basic necessities of man. The aim of the Community Project is to ensure that these are available to all persons living in rural areas.*

*A beginning has been made in tackling the problem of housing with the simple scheme for loans to poor people for the construction of houses. In the Lower Bhavani Project area full advantage has been taken of the scheme and with the help in the shape of land, materials and labour provided by the Community as a whole, hundreds of houses have been put up for the poorer classes especially harijans. The further problem of houses for those who have been rendered homeless owing to seepage of water is also being tackled vigourously in this Project. I am glad to find that an entirely new colony to provide houses for this class of people has sprung up. The general public who have generously contributed land, materials etc., and the Project Staff deserve to be congratulated for the success of housing schemes in this area.*

*N. E. S. Raghavachari.*

**G. VENKATACHALAPATHY**

DIRECTOR OF RURAL WELFARE AND  
JOINT SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

GOVERNMENT HOUSE

MOUNT ROAD

MADRAS - 2

The greatest need of the villagers after food and clothing is housing. It is, therefore, very important that rural development work should include a programme of house construction. But it is essential that in the construction of houses in villages only materials available in the rural areas should be used. The manufacture of tiles, bricks and lime-mortar in the countryside has of late suffered severe set back due to the utilisation on an ever increasing scale of cement and reinforced concrete even in rural parts. The activities of the Community Development Schemes in regard to rural housing should, therefore, serve to revive these fast dying rural industries. The activities will then be doubly blessed indeed. I am happy to observe on this occasion that the housing schemes undertaken in the Erode Project area have followed this ideal as far as practicable and set an example to other areas.

*G. Venkatachalapathy.*

A. UTHANDARAMAN, I. A. S.  
COMMISSIONER.



OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER  
FOR HINDU RELIGIOUS  
AND CHARITABLE ENDOWMENTS  
(ADM.) DEPARTMENT  
MADRAS - 2.

25th April 1956.

I am glad to learn that a new Colony is to be opened at Melapalayam to accommodate the villagers displaced on account of the execution of the Lower Bhavani Project. The formation of a new village is no easy task, but I am confident that you will make excellent arrangements for the formation and opening of the new Colony. As Hindus and citizens of India, it is our duty to see that every village is provided with a place of worship. No village can be complete without a temple where the residents could assemble and worship God, the Giver of all good, the Maker, Preserver and Destroyer of the universe. As Commissioner of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments administration, I request you to see that a temple, however small, is constructed for the use of the Hindu residents of the new Colony, if you have not already done so.\* I wish the new Colony continued progress and prosperity.

*A. Uthandaraman.*

\* Arrangements have already been made to build a temple for Lord Ganesa in the new village — *Ed.*

**T. K. PALANIAPPAN, M. A., I. A. S.,**  
DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRIES & COMMERCE,  
CHEPAUK,  
MADRAS - 51.

*May the spirit of self-help and co-operation that has come into play in your building up new and better villages continue in an ever growing measure for building up a new India!*

*J. K. Palaniappan.*

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OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR OF  
CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES,  
MADRAS,

28th March 1956.

*I am happy to learn that the Project Staff have contributed their efforts towards the establishment of this new colony and that the colony is to be provided with all amenities like protected water supply, drainage, a school and a park. It is my earnest desire and hope that this colony will be the forerunner for similar colonies to spring up in this Project area. I wish the venture all success.*

*A. Palaniappan,*  
Registrar.

*Modern villages are badly needed in our country. Your effort to build up such a village with protected water supply, drainage, a school and a park is a worthy one to be emulated by others. May many such villages spring up in our rural area bringing new life to the villages!*

*Dr. T. S. Soundram Ramachandran.*

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**P. S. RANGASWAMI, M. L. A.**  
SECRETARY  
TAMIL NAD CONGRESS COMMITTEE

**MADRAS**  
16th March 1956.

*Mutual understanding and co-operation are the main factors in nation building schemes. I am happy that these have been realised here in that a model village such as Melopalayam with all facilities has sprung up as a result of the combined efforts of the villagers and the Project Staff.*

*I appreciate the valuable services rendered both by the villagers and the Project Staff and I wish the New Melopalayam Villagers a Happy and Prosperous life.*

*P. S. Rangaswami.*

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**K. G. PALANISWAMY GOUNDER, M. L. A.**

**KANGAYAM,**  
COIMBATORE DISTRICT.

*Lower Bhavani community project is a blessing to this area. I expect hearty co-operation from the public to this good attempt at creating a model colony. I am sure they will make it a success.*

**K. G. Palaniswamy.**

**P. K. NAMBIAR, I. A. S.,**  
COLLECTOR OF MALABAR.

As Collector of Coimbatore District it was my good fortune to associate myself with the working of the Community Project in the Lower Bhavani area. It was indeed a great experiment in integrated and comprehensive development based on ethical and human values. It has several achievements to its credit the most striking of which is the Melapalayam Colony which will be inaugurated shortly by our great Chief Minister. I consider that the most important result of the Community Project work in Coimbatore District is the enthusiasm shown by the people in its working and the new life generated among the people by their close collaboration with the movement. I am confident that the new energy can be harnessed for building up a Greater India under the Second Five Year Plan.

*P. K. Nambiar,*  
20-8-1956.



COMMUNITY ENTERTAINMENT



"Dance"



"Karagam"



"Kummi" — Women



"Kummi" — Men

COMMUNITY ENTERTAINMENT



Recreation Centre



Children's Corner



Physical Culture



Play Festival

## “FOUR OBJECTIVES OF PLANNING”

SRI J. M. LOBO PRABHU, I. C. S.

Is it possible that the lack of interest in the Five Year Plans is due to the fact that they have not been set in a definite perspective? A conglomeration of ideas may produce some results, but only clear objectives evoke high endeavour. In our planning, multiple objectives, *higher production, employment, consumption and income*, have been used from time to time. No doubt all four objectives are related to each other, and lead to nearly the same results, but their appeal and evolution is different. It is necessary to examine each of these objectives, in respect of their appeal, their workability and results. If any one is better than the others, it may still be possible to restate our plans so that they gain effectiveness.

Planning for Production is a neutral concept, of capitalistic origin. It relates to resources and is more the means than the end. Even projects like irrigation and electricity serve only the interests of groups of individuals. Mills, steel, cement and other factories may represent the country's wealth, but their appeal to the common man is indirect and remote. Even, if in the long run, the increase in the country's wealth will benefit all, in the short run it is looked at with indifference by those not benefited. Production, there

has always been. Even if it is planned or managed by State, it belongs to the order that has produced capitalist and professional classes. Normally, planning for production is easy when finance and technical skill are available to fill up the known requirements of the people. The results also are quickly visible as far as the production itself is concerned. They are not so visible, as far as the use and benefit of that production go.

Planning for Consumption, or for a better standard of life appears vague and difficult. Yet, we have done it successfully. The drive to provide food for all, proceeded from ascertaining individual requirements. Similarly in respect of cloth, the target referred to the consumption desirable. The simple question then is whether in the case of other requirements like housing, hospitalisation, education, and recreation, the plan should not proceed on requirements of the entire population duly ascertained and announced. When the population knows what the plan holds for each, a new expectancy and endeavour will be sparked, making the plan a responsibility of the people. This psychological aspect is important, as it will spur everyone, those to be benefited, as well as those who are in the lines of production

and distribution. Of course, the Plan will not be so easy to draw, as it will have to take into account the various lines of production necessary to meet the blue print of individual requirements. But it will have a definite foundation, which will assure that only what is required will be produced.

Planning for Employment is the other side of planning for consumption. It implies placing all persons in production for achieving the targets of consumption. In a sense, though it is only the executive part, employment is an end in itself, as idle labour is a burden to the State, as it is for any enterprise. At present only 64% of the population is fully employed which means that nearly a third of the population makes no return to the State for the food and services it consumes. The question is, whether a plan can be drawn up, village and town-wise to fully employ everyone. A practical approach is a national scheme of unemployment insurance. All included in the Scheme, who cannot find their own employment, should be transferred to State projects of which any number can be drawn up, for making roads, reservoirs, building schools and hospitals, afforesting or otherwise reclaiming wastes. As these add to the wealth of the State, the wages paid will be absorbed in the economy of the country, without causing inflationary effects.

Planning for national and individual incomes, is now more or less a statistical process. A practical approach to it may be a system of minimum wages, not only in industry, but also in agriculture. At present the wages of our labour are not one tenth of those of labour in U. K. or one twentieth of those in the U. S. A. We cannot match our economy with that of other nations unless the largest part of our population has comparable wages. The process of paying labour adequately does not, as U. S. experience shows, impoverish the employers. It actually adds to the purchasing power on which the totality of enterprise depends. It may appear a bold step to take, but it is one that is equitable, economic, and feasible. No doubt minimum wages are not so actively considered, by the Government, as it were three years ago, but this loss of interest, may be due to the fact that the proposal was not sufficiently brought to the attention of the people. If the intention is to increase the average income of the country, minimum wages must set the standards.

Which of the four objectives, production, consumption, employment or income can we now adopt for our national planning? Planning for consumption is ideologically the best, as it accords with Socialist policy now adopted as the aim of the country. It is also the most complete basis for planning. Perhaps it is too late

now to recast on this basis the plans drawn for villages, districts, States and the country. In the circumstances, since the Second Five Year Plan is stated to be flexible, to be reviewed and revised every year, it is possible that atleast one of the items of Planning for Consumption, an adequate house for all can be added to the existing Plan. Similarly, unemployment insurance from Planning for Employment and minimum wages from Planning for Income can be grafted on the existing plan. These extensions of the plan will add to it an appeal, which will make it at once, a People's Plan, calling for wider interest and response.

Can the finance for these extensions be found? I was the first proponent of deficit finance, which having been since tried tentatively is now the basis of nearly one fourth of the Second Five Year Plan. Some 500 crores of created money in the last three years has not caused inflation. On the other hand, it has given the economy a tone, which made it possible to think of the much bigger Second Five Year Plan with 1,200 Crores of created money. In my view, as the Second Plan proceeds, it will be found that that created money will not create even a ripple of inflation. If this is watched and recognised, it should be possible to double and treble the provision of deficit finance in the Second Plan. Our currency per head of population is now about 11

dollars, as against 320 dollars in U. K. and 840 dollars in the United States. If we could raise it to 24 dollars, which is the average per head, in the neighbouring country of Ceylon, even the whole Second Plan can be doubled and trebled.

Are any mechanisms necessary against inflation? In the first place, the productive aspect of public expenditure is a certain check. To the extent the production is concrete and permanent like new houses, roads, schools, irrigation works, the deficit finance employed, only converts the idle labour available into wealth. In the second place taxation is always available to reduce excess of purchasing power. It is a corrective of private expenditure and a source of public expenditure. In indirect forms, it can reach all classes of people, who hold excessive purchasing power. A third mechanism may be to keep public expenditure, as far as possible, in the form of loans. This mortgages income and reduces the tendency to spend. For the lower income groups, particularly for items like house construction, which bear no income, repayment of loans may be in labour to be rendered on public projects. A complete plan on this basis was drawn up for the Chingleput district for a One Crore Scheme of rural housing.

The future, therefore, of planning is hopeful. Only, it is necessary that the subject remains

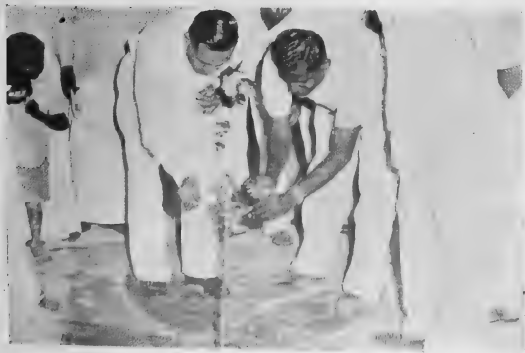
under constant study, so that the plan is steadily enlarged on the basis of its success, to cover the

vast deficiencies that exist both in the production and consumption of the country.



Muthur Hospital Ward.

*"Lighting the Lamp of Literacy"*



*"Lighting the Lamp of Literacy"*



## LOCAL BODIES AND COMMUNITY PROJECTS

SRI. N. NALLASENAPATHY SARKARAI MANRADIAR, M. L. C.,  
Pattagar of Palayakottai and President, District Board, Coimbatore.

INDIA is by and large an agricultural country. Her wealth lies in her villages. Millions of small villages all over the country represent so many units of Indian civilisation. Some of them have lost their original vigour. Others are fast losing it. Only a few, if at all, retain any of their old characteristics worth the name. The reason is not far to seek. In good olden days every village had a leader, a man of good status and with enough worldly wisdom to make his authority felt and respected by the rest of the community. His word was law in his village. In some villages rule by a single individual was replaced by the council of elders who acted as a body in debating and deciding what was best for the village. These elders settled disputes among their fellowmen. The entire village administration was in the hands of this council of elders—the panchayat. These men of wisdom and ability rarely abused their powers. Hence the glory of our Indian villages of old.

With the advent of British imperialism, the village began to lose its importance. Towns became the centre of attraction. Villagers trekked to cities in search of employment only to be disillusioned. This one way

traffic all but smothered the five lakh and odd villages.

For some time the district boards on a large scale and the panchayat board in a smaller measure have been providing the necessities like wells and roads in rural areas. The district boards have also constructed and run rural dispensaries, maternity and child welfare centres. They have provided educational facilities at the elementary and secondary school stages. All these touched not even the fringes of the huge problem.

The great experiment of community project started on 2nd October, 1952, on the birth day of the Father of the Nation, has proved a complete success. The many phased programme of the community project including agriculture, communications, education, health, animal husbandry, industries and housing is changing rapidly the conditions of life in villages. The villagers are being exhorted to take an active part in the execution of these schemes. Slowly the village development committee is receiving greater and greater prominence and importance.

When the community project officials began an intensive drive for the provision of the bare necessities and amenities of life

in villages, my district board has not been slow to understand the significance of the movement or to extend its co-operation. In this district for the community project area alone my district board has agreed to provide 50% of the cost of formation of roads and construction of culverts to the extent of three lakhs of rupees. This is not to speak of the liberal donations to local development works. This district board is also keen on encouraging construction of permanent structures for schools. In deserving cases, it has agreed to contribute 25% of the cost of the buildings.

Apart from the district board, several panchayat boards have fully appreciated the community project programme and were greatly benefited by it. Even minor panchayats have made a great effort to utilise

the community project funds for providing necessary amenities for their villages. On the whole there has been a very commendable co-operation between the project staff and those of local bodies. This will be evident even to a casual visitor to any of the villages in the project area.

When the community project scheme is wound up, the district board or the local panchayat board may have to take over the maintenance of roads and some of the institutions that have sprung as a result of the activities of the community project. It is earnestly hoped that ways and means will be found not only for maintaining them efficiently but also for expanding them from time to time with the united endeavour and support of the people so profitably forged by the community projects.



Bridge constructed by the Panchayat Board, Kodumudi.

# RURAL HOUSING.

SRI A. PALANIAPPAN,

Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Madras.

HOUSING, as every one knows, is next in importance only to food and clothing. It is the primary need of a human family in civilised life, constituting the most important part of physical environment, which continuously influences man's health, outlook and well-being. Housing means the provision of comfortable shelter and such surroundings and services as would keep the persons fit and cheerful and it includes the creation of new building sites in well laid out areas as well as the improvement of existing localities by making arrangement for water supply, drainage, roads, lighting, means of communication and civic centres required for medical relief, education, shopping and the like. In all advanced countries the triple ideals kept in view in modern construction of houses are Utility, Comfort and Beauty.

There is abundant evidence in ancient Indian Literature, and in the archaeological excavations to show that the art and the technique of house building and of planning villages and cities had developed to a high degree in this country. Naturally the houses, villages and towns in the past bore the impress of the religious, cultural, political and sociological conditions then prevailing. Unfortu-

nately at a certain stage in the history of India, sciences and arts including those of housing and Town Planning came to a standstill; things began to deteriorate and to-day the housing conditions in our villages are far from satisfactory.

One important cause contributing to the unsatisfactory nature of rural housing is want of resources. With the poor income of the agriculturists in general, there is little margin for them to make an adequate outlay on proper housing. Further poorer classess are generally left with the sites and allowed to drift for themselves in the matter of providing shelter. The paucity of convenient sites, the enormous increase in the cost of building materials and of labour, the inadequacy of transport to and from nearby urban areas etc., and above all, the non-availability of sufficient funds have made the solution of this problem extraordinarily difficult. This can be met only by the resolute and united effort of Government and the public.

As in other spheres of satisfying human needs, Co-operation can play a significant role in the vital matter of providing housing facilities to the needy and deserving people; particularly common people in the rural areas. The All India Co-operative Planning

Committee recommended that a Co-operative Housing Society might be organised for a group of villages for the construction of houses to villagers. The Madras Provincial Housing Committee endorsed the views of the Planning Committee. A scheme for organising housing Co-operative societies in rural areas was sanctioned by the Government of Madras during April 1950. The scheme is applicable to all places outside municipalities and major panchayats to which the urban housing scheme is applicable. In all centres where the scheme is to be introduced, separate housing co-operatives are organised and they are registered on the basis of limited liability, their constitution, working and management being similar to those of the Urban Housing Societies on the individual ownership. The societies borrow money from Government and pass on the loan to the individual applicants in cash in instalments as the work of construction progresses. The rural housing society does not undertake the construction of houses on behalf of the members except if expressly required, by the borrowers to do so. The construction of houses under the scheme is ordinarily intended to be in blocks of at least ten houses with a lay out plan providing for street, lanes etc.,. The intention is that the new colony should form more or less an extension of the village. The construction

of houses on isolated sites owned by the members is also allowed provided the site satisfies the conditions from the point of view of sanitation and health, in which case no lay out plan is insisted upon. The society assists the members in acquiring the sites wherever so required.

There are 57 rural housing societies in the State with a membership of 870 and a paid up share capital of Rs. 1.29 lakhs. Loans to the extent of Rs. 3.58 lakhs have so far been sanctioned to the members for the construction of houses. The response to the scheme till recently was not encouraging. Hence the scheme was liberalised in several respects. Under the revised scheme now in force, rural housing societies are formed for groups of villages. They are provided with the technical assistance for the preparation of layout plans and type-designs, estimates etc., wherever required. Loans are disbursed to individuals (members) who construct houses according to approved plans and estimates on sites already owned by them or obtained from the societies. Ordinarily loans to the extent of five times the paid up share capital are given to the members by the societies as in the case of urban societies and where agricultural land of value equal to the loan amount is offered as collateral security, loans upto 8 times the paid up share capital are also given. In both the cases, the maximum Government loan per house is

limited to Rs. 5,000/-. It is open now to a villager to build even low cost houses.

The loans given are ordinarily, repayable in a period not exceeding 20 years by means of equal or equated annual instalments. Under equal instalment system, the principal amount payable each month will be the same while the interest payable will be on the outstanding in the loan. Under equated payments, a definite sum, which includes principal and interest, is payable every month throughout the period of the loan.

Government charge a low rate of interest on the loans issued by them to the societies. The actual rate is fixed each year. The rate for the year 1955-56 was  $4\frac{1}{2}\%$ . For the current year the rate is not yet fixed. The rate fixed for the year in which loan is disbursed will be applicable to the loan till it is discharged. A penal rate of  $7\frac{1}{2}\%$  is levied on all overdue instalments.

Usually housing societies both rural and urban charge interest adding a margin not exceeding 1% to the rate of interest payable to Government.

At this stage, it will be useful if I indicate, how a person intending to build a house under this scheme can get a Government loan through a Housing Society. If he owns a house site, he may find out from local enquiry or by writing to the Deputy Registrar of the circle concerned whether there is a Rural Housing Society in the

village or in any of the neighbouring villages. If there is no society working in the place and if more than 10 persons owning house sites desire to construct houses with Government loans, then, they may apply to the Deputy Registrar of the circle concerned for organising a new Housing Society.

Ordinarily the applicant has to take shares to the value of one fifth of the loan amount required. But if he can give agricultural land of value equal to the loan required as additional security for the loan, he is eligible for a loan upto 8 times the paid up share capital and therefore it will be enough if he remits one eighth of the loan amount as share capital.

The loan application of the member is scrutinized by the Board of Directors of the society and then they apply to Government for a Government loan on behalf of the applicant upto 4 times or 7 times the share capital as the case may be. The Deputy Registrar after satisfying himself about the correctness of the particulars furnished in the loan application, recommends the loan application to the Registrar. The Joint Registrar sanctions the loan and sends the loan sanction order to the society through the Deputy Registrar.

After receipt of the Loan Sanction Order, the applicant will have to pay the balance of share capital, if any, execute a bond mortgaging the house

site and also the agricultural land, if the loan is to be 8 times the paid up share capital and commence construction of the building according to the approved plan and estimate. The society will obtain an encumbrance certificate upto the date of execution of the bond by the member and assigns the bond in favour of Government. The loan amount is drawn by the Deputy Registrar and disbursed in instalments to the society, which pays the amount to the applicant.

The building will have to be commenced within two months from the date of drawal of the loan amount and completed within sixteen months. The building is valued by an officer of the Public Works Department to fix the value and to ensure the security for the Government loan immediately on its completion and there after valued annually by the Deputy Registrar of his circle concerned until the loan is discharged.

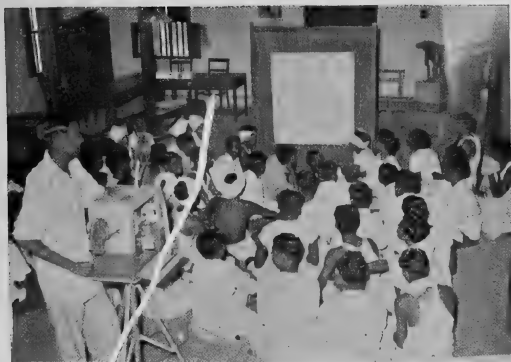
The interest on the loan is payable to the society on the completion of the building or

on the expiry of 16 months from the date of disbursement of the first instalment of the Government loan, whichever is earlier. The first instalment for re-payment shall fall due after one month of the completion of the building or 17 months from the date of disbursement of the first instalment of the Government loan, whichever is earlier.

The Rural Housing Scheme is included in the Second Five Year Plan period. In addition to the societies already existing, 240 new rural housing societies are proposed to be formed for the construction of 6000 houses at a total cost of Rs. 71.58 lakhs with the help of Government loans. It is proposed to employ a few Public Works Department Supervisors to draw plans and estimates for houses to be constructed, free of cost. It is also proposed to provide the societies with the services of departmental inspectors free of cost to manage the societies and render assistance to the applicants to get Government loans and build houses.



— SOCIAL EDUCATION —



Cinema



Exhibition



Education of the aged

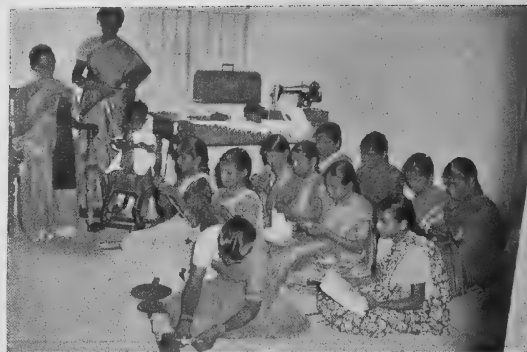


Education of the young

— MADAR SANGAMS —



Perundurai



Periakodiveri



Kanjikoil



Pathiampalayam

# THE DAWN OF RAMRAJ.

SRI. P. G. KARUTHIRUMAN, B. SC., M. L. A.

THE Father of our Nation, Mahathma Gandhi, often talked of establishing on this vast sub-continent of 360 million people a Ramraj - the golden millennium. That is, he wanted to usher in an era where all the people would be provided with equal opportunities of life and assured of their basic requirements like food, clothing, housing, education and healthy surroundings.

The political freedom for which the country had been striving under the unique leadership of the Mahathma, had been achieved nine years ago. But the Ramraj that he dreamt and spoke of is yet to come. "Would it ever come?" - is the question which has often intrigued millions of our countrymen.

My answer to this momentous question is in the affirmative. India would reach her goal of getting Ramraj as surely as she attained her first goal of political independence, by a non-violent struggle. But one has to bear in his mind the truth that there is no short cut to "Ramraj". The nation should work for it. It would be achieved only by systematic planning and hard work, not only by the Government of the country but by the people also. The hearty co-operation and ceaseless efforts

of the people are essential factors.

In fact we have already distant glimpses of the dawn of this much longed for millennium of Ramraj, thanks to the first and second five year plans in general and the community development programmes in particular.

India, as everyone knows, is a land of villages. 85 percent of its people live in about 5.5 lakhs of villages of varied dimensions. As such, it is patent that any real development of the country should be based on the improvement of the physical, social, cultural and moral conditions of the rural folk. This is exactly what the Community Development Programmes have been trying to do. No wonder they are often referred to as "people's programmes". The chief job of the Government is to help the people to carry out these programmes successfully. Speaking of food, India could be proud that during the first five year plan period, the country had been able to achieve self-sufficiency. Yet we cannot afford to rest on our oars.

Poverty due to under production in agriculture, and under employment or unemployment are the chief problems to be tackled in rural India. Next in importance is the eradication

of disease and ignorance. As these problems are inter-related to a certain extent, the Community Development Programme aims at a co-ordinated approach to rural problems as a whole. The distinguishing features of the Community Development Programme are that they are based on the initiative and active participation of the villages as equal partners with the Government, and its multi-purpose nature.

It may perhaps be mentioned here that during the long years of British rule, the countryside had been miserably neglected. To serve their imperialistic interests they had bestowed their favours, if any, on urban development only. This has resulted in the development of a lop-sided economy, creating problems of its own.

By "Community Development Programme", we also refer to National Extension Service, Block Developments and Community Projects. The aims of both the Community Project and the N. E. S. are the same. A higher scale of expenditure has been allotted to the areas under community project, as higher standard of development has been aimed at. The N. E. S. areas would be taken up for more intensive development as Community Development areas in course of time. The intensive development activities under both the schemes would last for a period of 3 years. To ensure continuity

in the improvement of rural life the personnel of the N. E. S. Development block would be continued even after the completion of the programme.

Under the First Five Year Plan it was proposed to cover by the C. D. programmes one fourth of the population of the country, and this target has been successfully achieved. Under the Second plan additional areas would be taken up each year so that the entire population of the land could be covered by the end of the period viz., 31st March 1962.

It is a very happy thing that the progress of the programmes had been remarkably successful in the Madras State, especially where the people had given their unstinted co-operation, and where the officials had been able to look at things from a nationalistic view point. It may be pointed out here that in all these schemes the people of the locality should and did contribute 50 per cent of the expenses by way of money, land or labour.

At the beginning of last year, in Madras State there were four major Community Projects, four Community Development Blocks, and 48 National Extension Service Blocks. 25 lakhs of people are covered by Community Projects and over 51 lakhs by the N. E. S. Out of the total rural population of 290 lakhs in Madras State, a total of 76

lakhs have been covered by the various C. D. programmes. Madras is one of the leading states in India.

Whereas the First Five Year Plan envisaged the execution of Major projects mainly with a view to set right the deficiency in food production, the second plan envisages the working of plans from below.

The progress made in the Electrification of rural areas in Madras State is far in advance of other states. Out of the 7,000 villages that have been electrified so far, in India, 3,500 villages are in this state. During the First plan period alone, we have got more than 2,000 villages electrified. Under the second plan it is proposed to carry electricity to 1,000 villages, and to install 6,000 pump sets for agricultural purposes per year.

The proverbial poverty of rural India could be got rid of by increased production. Agricultural production could be increased by the adoption of improved cultivation methods, and use of improved types of manure. The quality and quantity of agricultural production could be increased by utilising improved seeds, by good fertilisers like compost, green manure, chemical fertilisers etc., and by adopting more modern and scientific methods of cultivation. Agriculturists who followed these have been benefited. Allied to this are improvements to irri-

gation facilities, and the bringing under cultivation of all waste lands that could be cultivated. Under the C. D. programmes, good seeds are supplied to ryots. Technical and scientific training necessary to enhance production is assured to them. Arrangements for credit facilities are to be provided for the cultivators' expenses. Then, there is the need for providing marketing facilities for the sale of the produce. It is here that the all important problem of rural communications come in. Fuller employment facilities would accrue out of increased agricultural production. The problems of under-employment and unemployment should be tackled by the development of cottage industries and crafts.

In the field of agriculture the Japanese Method of systematic cultivation is adopted by more and more number of villagers. Large areas have been cultivated with improved seeds. People have learned to appreciate the use of compost and green manure. The demand for chemical fertilisers is steadily on the increase. As livestock would go a long way to improve the lot of the rural Indian, special attention has been bestowed on this aspect. Breeding centres, artificial insemination centres, poultry development units and centres for rearing sheep and goat are being opened. Pedigree stud bulls have been supplied to C. D. areas. Co-operative Societies are being developed. The

ultimate goal is to have one multi-purpose co-operative society for each village. As for providing the much needed credit facilities, the Government sanction loans to agriculturists for the purchase of fertilisers, seeds, bulls, digging irrigation wells, installation of pump sets etc.

Hundreds of wells have been renovated or newly constructed. The progress is being followed up with the object of providing adequate drinking water supply to each and every village. With a view to improve village communications villagers are encouraged to form kutchra roads themselves. Bridges and culverts are provided on these at Government cost. Some of these are selected for metalling.

In the field of education, literacy drive has been undertaken. Assistance has been given to villagers to put up new school buildings. In several centres adult schools have cropped up. In several centres community recreation centres have been provided. Almost all villages with a population of over one thousand are provided with elementary schools. As the Chief Minister Mr. Kamaraj revealed at a public meeting recently, all villages with a population of 500 and above would have elementary schools of their own before the end of the Second plan period. For each block there is one health

maternity centres. Attention is paid to the improvement of the people's health with nutritious food, clean water, and sanitary surroundings. Some progress has been made in the direction of rural housing schemes also. A scheme for the grant of loans to villagers for the construction of houses has been approved by the Government.

On the whole there is very good response from the people in respect of the Community Development Programmes, especially in the Madras State. It is an interesting piece of information that all the money allotted for the schemes have been used up, before the closing of the official years. As already pointed out, there is a rural bias in these programmes. In short, we are seeing before our eyes a slow but sure revolution, after the heart of the Mahathma. The people are realising as days pass on that they are equal partners with the Government in the great nation building activities. The rural folk should be taught and encouraged to develop into fine and noble citizens, worthy of this great land of ours. They should not only have education fit for free Indians but also should be helped to develop their characters. For what is man without character? The Kamrajya that Gandhiji dreamt of is, no doubt, well on its way to dawn over this ancient land. Let me finish my write-up after quoting two verses, from our great poet Kambar, wherein he

writes about the country with men of character, where there is none who are in want. The verses run as follows :

“கனம் சுரக்கும் நிதியம்; கணக்கினை  
நிலம் சுரக்கும் நிறைவளம்; நன்மணிப்  
பிலம் சுரக்கும்; பெருதற் கரியநன்  
குலம் சுரக்கும் ஒழுக்கம் குடிசெனாம்.”

“கன்னாது திற்பார் பிறரின்கையின் கண்விழுற்ற  
வடனாரும் இல்லை; அவை வல்லர் அல்லாரு மில்லை  
எல்லாரும் எல்லாப் பெருஞ்செல்வம் எய்தலானே  
இல்லாரும் இல்லை உடையார்களும் இல்லை மாதோ.”

— கம்பர்.



Inauguration of Balar Sangam, Kugalur.

# THE POLICE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

SRI S. M. DIAZ, M A , I. P. S ,  
District Superintendent of Police, Coimbatore.

DURING the last eight years of our Independence we have progressed a good long way in transforming a Police State into a welfare state. The function of the Police in a welfare state is fundamentally different in concept and practice from what it is in a Police State. Instead of being agents of a ruling power and carrying out its directions mainly from the angle of the security of the state, the Police are rapidly becoming an agency for doing the maximum possible good to the largest number of people. This has naturally cost a lot of effort, for it meant not only a reorientation of old ideas but also a practical adaptation to the needs of a nation that is marching towards the goal of political, social and economic Democracy.

2. Though the more impatient among our countrymen may feel that our progress towards social and economic democracy is not fast enough, it is admitted on all hands that the quantum of progress during the last eight years has far outdone whatever was done in that direction in the half century preceding Independence. Having started with a legacy of the after-effects of a world war and the cataclysm of millions of people being uprooted from their hearths as a result of the partition, the results so far

achieved by our country in its development plans have been definitely substantial. Apart from the great irrigation and power projects and the Industrial Establishments, the whole face of the countryside has been changed by the co-operative effort of the people and the State in the nation building activities of the Community Projects, the National Extension Blocks and the Local Development schemes. It is reported that when a foreign visitor expressed a desire to go and see the Tajmahal, Pandit Nehru remonstrated and said "Taj is for the dead, Bakhra is for the living. Go and see Bakhra". In like manner, considering the fact that India is a land of villages where progress and development should have its basis in the village, I would rather say "Tajmahal is for the dead, Melapalayam is for the living, go and see Melapalayam". In truth, villages such as Melapalayam with a new look and new life are the foundations of our progress and when the length and breadth of India are covered by such villages our goal would finally have been reached.

3. When a whole nation is making gigantic efforts towards development and progress, the Police force alone cannot afford to standby and watch. It is true that the Police too have

changed their outlook and have fitted themselves into the new scheme of things and are doing their best, efficiently and courteously, to ensure the safety of life and property and the maintenance of the public peace. But something more than that is called for from the Police of a welfare State. They have to go out of the beaten track and be of service to the people in fields other than their direct line of duty. It may be helping an old man or child across a road, or courteously answering a query about the time of the next bus or train, or giving a kind word of encouragement and advice to a person in trouble, or generally being helpful to the community at large. It will very often be possible for a Police Officer not by his authority but by virtue of his being something of a leader in the locality, to understand clearly the needs of the people of the area and to take steps to satisfy this need by mobilizing the efforts of the people around him. What I mean is, that in a village within the limits of a Police Station the people may feel the need for a school or a water supply scheme or a reading room or a recreation centre and may be helpless about it. The local Police Sub-Inspector will get to know about this need more easily than others and by advising the people and canalising their efforts in the right direction, he could under one or the other of the development schemes of the Government, help to

establish the institution or amenity that the people really need.

4. That this is not mere theorising has been clearly proved by the Police of this district, who on their own initiative and with their "Sramdhan" and with the willing co-operation of the local bodies and the people, have executed a dozen items of work costing about sixty thousand rupees, spread over the various taluks of the district. A special feature about these works is that the resultant amenities do not directly benefit the police force but only the general public of the place. The list of works done include a reading room and community centre at Perundurai, a children's park and Recreation centre at Malayampalayam, both in the Community Project area, as also a village road at Paguduthurai and a village school at Rayarpalayam. A few more works, other than the dozen referred to above, are now in their initial stages. For all these works 50% of the cost was received as development grant from the Government, 25% was contributed by the local body or the village people and the remaining 25% was met by the Police by way of labour and supervision. And it may just be mentioned in passing that the quality of the works done by the Police has been acknowledgedly of a high order, for it is well known that if the Police of Madras take up a thing, they do it well.

5. This new enterprise by the Police has proved to the people at large that the Police are their friends and that they are genuinely interested in their welfare. The old fear and distrust have given place to good will and confidence. The good will born out of the co-operative effort between the people and the Police in these constructive undertakings, without any element of coercion in it, is expected also to help the Police in their regular duties of prevention and detection of crime and maintenance of law and order, for after all, in a welfare state the Police can do their work efficiently only if the people go all out to co-operate with them.

6. During the current year, 1956, the nation has completed successfully its first five year

plan and has started enthusiastically on its second five year plan. Our achievements during the first five year plan have even surprised foreign critics. More than anything else, the thing that really counts is the awakening among the people that the first five year plan has produced. This is a priceless asset and if every single son of the soil, whatever be his walk of life and his resources, works hard and contributes his mite to the task of nation building, the country's economic prosperity will be absolutely assured. It is this realization that has made the Police also take to this new field of work and I am sure they will continue to pay attention to it in so far as they are able to do so in the larger interests of the country, the people and the Police themselves.



Sramdhan by Malayampalayam Police.



*"Sram Dhan"*



/// SCHOOL BUILDINGS ///



Lakkampatti



Thandampalayam



Kandappagoundenavalasu



Modakkurichi

# COMMUNITY PROJECTS.

SRI N. BALAKRISHNAN, M. A.,  
Principal, Institute of English Studies, Madras.

'THE Sleeper Awakes' will be a good caption for our Community Projects Scheme. It is the beginning of a new deal for the poor villager whose welfare hitherto seemed to be nobody's concern. Neglect three times underscored was at the bottom of the policy of previous governments towards him. If nothing is done for eighty per cent of the population and they are left to swim about as relics of an ante-diluvian past, the national government will be exposing itself to universal ridicule. The environment must change before the men change. Roads and wells, decent houses to live in and clean surroundings, are the outward signs of inward grace. When Dr. Bernardo caught his young ragamuffins in the street, sleeping on doorsteps and on wharves, he took them home, gave them a good scrubbing with soap and water, set a plate of hot soup in front of them before bringing in the slate and pencils. What our government is doing is just what every sensible mother does in every decent household. Men must feel the throb of a new life before they will rise out of their sleep and stretch themselves.

At the same time one must take note of some hard facts. India is a poor country, poor in financial resources, poor in

trained personnel and poor in all those branches of essential knowledge that help in building up the good life. It has always been the sincere conviction of the present writer that his average compatriot can stand up to the best human specimens from any part of the world, but that our boys and girls have unfortunately been suffered too long to wander about disconsolately like Oliver Twist with his unwashed face and King Cophetua's spouse in her rags. For ages they have been conditioned to accept poverty, and even to welcome it, and the healthy instincts of curiosity have been suppressed in them by large and systematic doses of stupefying dogma and empty promises of illusory happiness. The only proper method of dissolving the crust of lethargy and indifference that has settled upon their minds is to convince them that those who are more fortunate than themselves are resolved to come to them, with hands full of gifts and hearts full of sympathy. But good will and enthusiasm by themselves without the escort of judgment and forethought would end only in unprofitable efforts and wasteful expenditure. To carry out these schemes with any degree of success we want highly trained personnel with good academic qualifications, expert in sociological studies and

trained in the practical aspects of rural reconstruction, rather than persons with the unimpressive designation of 'village level workers' operating under the immediate inspiration of itinerant philosophers. Of course, responsible government departments have to scrutinize not only the feasibility of some of the proposed schemes but also their financial implications and the peculiar after problems that they are likely to generate. It has sometimes been objected to that with such a long queue waiting for the dole it would not do to drop a few coins into the first twenty hands that are outstretched and to tell the other twenty thousand to wait for their turn. Would it not be better to declare straightway that it is really a twenty year rural reconstruction plan that is now on, that the ultimate object is to cover the whole country and that the work by instalments now undertaken is determined solely by administrative and financial considerations? Surely the objective is big enough and important enough to be looked after by a full-fledged ministry of rural reconstruction with expanded staff and increased financial appropriations. It may be said that there is a fairy tale ring about some of the accounts of the amazing progress made in the course of two or three years, of thousands of people being vaccinated and re-vaccinated, two thirds of the population being tuberculin tested, the

incidence of malaria being reduced to ten per cent of what it was before, tap water being supplied to several villages and a new and revolutionary zeal spreading among the peasants that promises to take them to new heights of prosperity and plenty; but everybody knows that many of these claims are substantially true.

Some have questioned the ethics of raising money by a concealed species of taxation from the people of the countryside who are so much harassed and oppressed and weighed down by many griefs, even if it is for such a laudable purpose as doing them a lot of good. Of all these demands those made in the name of Bhoodan are the least objectionable, because it is the wealthy landlords that are the targets of the reformers here, but sometimes enthusiasm for sacrifices of this kind are more easily kindled in the minds of those who are least able to bear such burdens than in those whose hearts are hardened against such things by habit and long usage. Backward or distressed areas in other countries receive a more favoured treatment quite justifiably, but then they are not labelled as community projects. If the community itself is expected to play the title-role in the dramas of its own amelioration, then one would look to the fulfilment of two prior conditions, a distinct improvement in the economic condition of the people as well as in their general

outlook. To whip up enthusiasm among a set of people who are unprogressive in their outlook and indifferent to their own welfare, an intensive educational effort is more needed than mere financial appropriations for schools that may be neglected, sanitary conveniences that may not be used, and roads that carry no traffic. We also constantly hear of libraries and reading rooms and radio sets being showered upon the people of those areas for whom one extra meal or half a glass of good milk would be greater blessings than all the books from metropolitan libraries and all the tunes from all the cinema studios of the land. India where one additional mouth to feed is brought into existence every two seconds has to be very careful about her agricultural production. China is trying to solve the problem by putting rows of men and women right across the fields and by cajoling or dragooning them into co-operative farming. Here we are trying to parcel out the land among the largest number of owners with the scantiest resources. China is hoping to put a tractor upon every farm before long, but some of our people are going about asking the villagers to be self-contained and to seal themselves off from the rest of the world. It is one thing to attempt to give the villagers a fair deal, and it is another to pamper them with an undue sense of their own importance and to cripple some of the rising

industries in the land for their benefit. Again the points whether the employment potential in the countryside can be really and effectively improved by trying to encourage certain types of labour-intensive but monotonous and soul-destroying occupations like spinning, and whether the ultimate cost to the state and society in doing these things will not be greater than the advantages that flow out to the beneficiaries, are to be carefully considered.

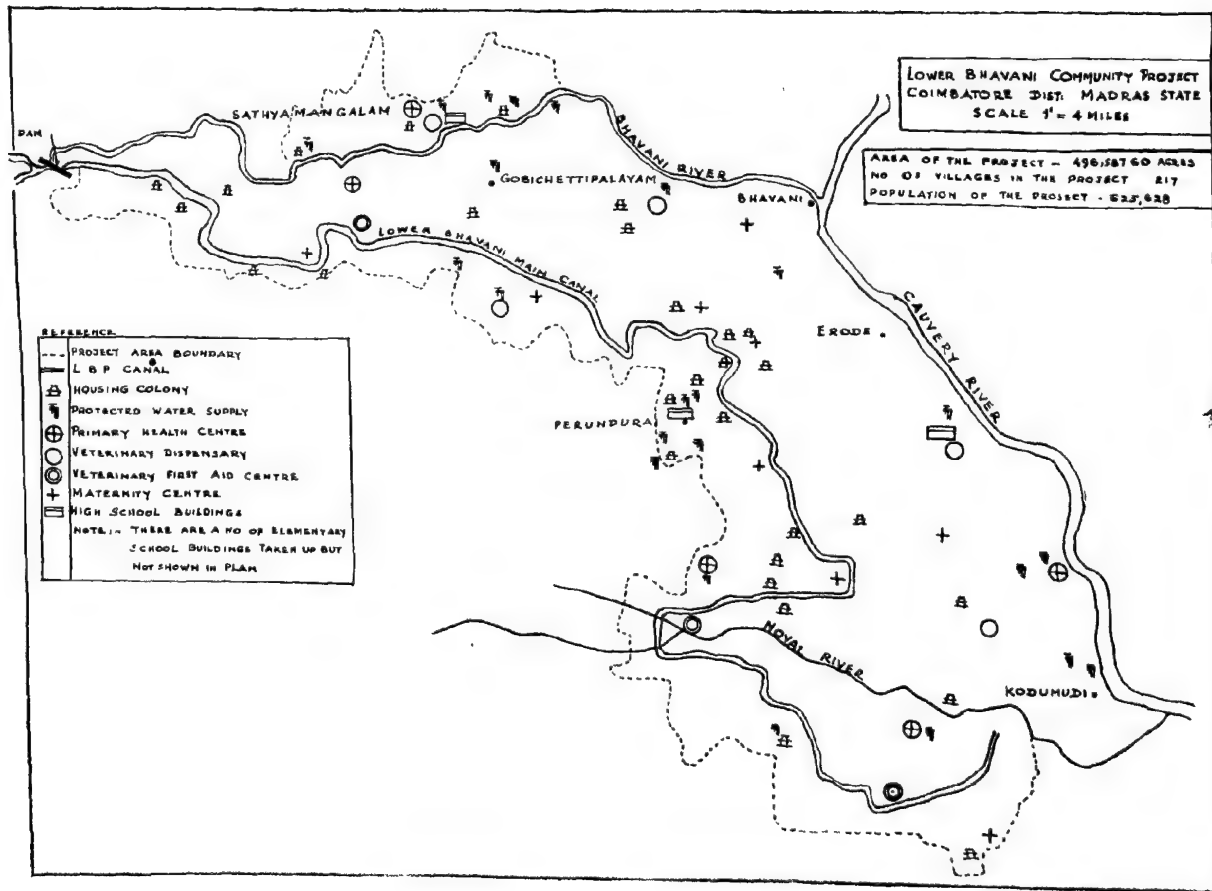
Gushing politicians carried away by the flights of their own imagination talk as if a nation consists only of the poor and the villagers. They refuse to face the fact that urban and rural parts are the two legs on which a nation walks towards its own great future. No sensible person nowadays boggles at the idea that disparities in income should be reduced to the minimum and that those who are well endowed with this world's goods should be ready to part with some of it for the benefit of their poorer brethren. All that the most Leninized persons could hope for is to create conditions of equal opportunities for all. They could never equalize incomes and personal standards of life. Comrade Krushchev has certainly a more bulging pocket and drinks a superior brand of Vodka and sleeps in a softer bed than Comrade Pushkin who works in the mines. Even communist Russia where the principles of

equality are supposed to be enthroned still finds it necessary to worship at the shrine of a leadership that dissolves and reforms and Stalinizes and destalinizes itself with such kaleidoscopic rapidity. It is well to remember that cottage industries can only be ancillary to the heavy ones in the country, and could not displace them altogether, and if any help is to be given to the poor cultivator of the soil to supplement his

meagre income, something better should be thought of than to spike one or two of the flourishing urban industries for his sake in the vain hope that this kind of blood transfusion would help the weaker party. There was an ancient king who was supposed to have torn his own side in order to feed a vulture when he could have thought of half a dozen better ways of being useful, and it would be dangerous folly to take a leaf out of his book.



Mobile Dispensary.



❧ A COLONY IN PROGRESS ❧



## “LOWER BHAVANI COMMUNITY PROJECT”

SRI J. A. AMBASANKAR, M. A.,  
Project Executive Officer.

SECOND October 1952 marked the birth of a great experiment in revitalising the slumbering and decadent millions of India. With a shovel in hand our Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru turned the first sod of earth for the formation of a road in a village near Delhi and invited the rest of his countrymen to lend a helping hand in this mighty adventure of resuscitating five lakh and odd villages which were all but dead under the heavy heel of the foreigner. His example was followed by several other leaders in different parts of the country. On the same day Sri Naganna Gowd, the then state minister for Agriculture of Madras State, inaugurated the Lower Bhavani Community Project in the village of Tadepalligramum in Gobi Taluk of Coimbatore District.

This Community Project is one of four such projects in this state. It spreads over the entire ayacut of the irrigation canal of that name. It covers an area of 750 sq. miles with a population of 6.25 lakhs. There are 217 villages in this project. A band of officials from different departments was harnessed for this task. The work was, of course, new to them. They toured the countryside, contacted the villagers and explained to them the meaning of

community project. The rural folk in this area were just then recovering from the worst effects of continued drought for five successive years. They were looking forward with hope to the prosperity that the water of the new irrigation canal might bring. At such a moment the demands for public contribution made by the community project officials did not meet with a ready response. Very often then not the villagers put a pointed question as to what the Government did with the taxes raised by them. Some of them murmured that these officials had no other business but to make such unwelcome visits in their jeeps to the countryside.

To convince the rural folk was in itself an achievement at the beginning. An average villager is born and brought up in an atmosphere of indifference. For generations he has been accustomed to driving bullock carts through bunded fields and not well paved path. Himself and his forefathers drank the water from a tank or a step well or even from an irrigation canal. He had absolute faith in the methods of agriculture his forefathers practised. He would not give them up easily. Almost always he expected the Government or the local body to do anything by way of

improvement to his village. In such an atmosphere any developmental work if done by sheer compulsion or even out of the enthusiasm of officials is not bound to last long or its benefits fully appreciated. An intensive programme for educating the villagers was therefore drawn up. Dramas specially written for the purpose were enacted. These drew large audiences. Through the mouth of a buffoon or some other comic character, ideas about sanitation, education etc., were put forward. Villagers saw these performances in pin drop silence. Exhibitions of modern methods of agriculture, pest control and veterinary aid were arranged at local festivals. Recreation centres were organised where the villagers thronged in the evening to relax after their arduous work. Suitable radio programmes relayed at such times made a deep impression on them. Young children were provided with play materials in well laid parks. Youth of the villages were encouraged to form themselves into clubs for games, for social service and for discussing and practising new methods of agriculture. The women folk were drawn out of their homes by organising madar sangams.

We found by experience that in villages which had good leaders, the pace of development was rapid. The local leaders themselves explained the necessity for executing more works to the rest of the villagers,

secured their co-operation and contribution and undertook to execute the work. In such villages the business of the Community Project staff was merely to give technical advice and provide Government share of the cost of the work. It was therefore felt necessary to train as many of them as possible in every village. With this end in view seminars were arranged in three different places to which nearly nine hundred villagers were invited to take part in a free and frank exchange of the experience and difficulties of one another.

Several months of unremitting propaganda had its effect. A few enterprising men in certain villages came to the rescue of the community project officials. They undertook laying a road here and sinking a well there. We concentrated in those places where villagers showed some enthusiasm. When villagers found that their neighbours had laid a good road, sunk a new well or put up a fine school building they too wanted to get similar things done for their own villages. Thus, our work gradually spread throughout the area.

If the benefits of modern civilisation did not reach the villages, it was because there were no good means of communication. Laying of roads or improving them where they existed, received top priority. Villagers were encouraged to form Katcha roads from their own funds. Small cart tracks

were widened into pucca roads by securing the lands from adjacent owners as a free gift. Metalling these roads and construction of culverts over water courses were taken up with Government aid. Nearly 250 miles of such roads have been laid and 200 miles of roads are nearing completion. Very soon it can be said that there is no village in this project which is not connected with the main road.

Within the village the crying need is good drinking water. Wells were sunk where there were none. Old dilapidated wells were renovated and made fit for drinking. Step wells were converted into draw ones. Villages which already had copious drinking water facilities were provided with an overhead tank and drinking water was supplied through public taps. It is worthwhile mentioning here that 180 wells were renovated, 350 wells were newly sunk and in 32 villages provision of protected drinking water supply was made with the wholehearted co-operation of the public.

In most villages the worst building was invariably the school. The future citizens of India were taught their first lessons in narrow, ill-ventilated buildings with rat holes and a leaky thatch. It took us some time and effort before we could convince the people of the desirability of housing the schools in decent buildings. A vigorous village to village campaign

resulted in construction of decent buildings for schools in nearly 100 out of 217 villages in this project.

Medical aid was very scanty in these parts. People in interior villages lived at the mercy of quacks and mendicants. Modern medicine was not available to any but the richest. Maternity aid was very primitive. Thanks to the Community Project, primary health centres equipped with modern medicines and staffed with qualified doctors were opened in four different places. A fifth one will be started shortly. Regular stream of patients visiting these hospitals only show what a felt necessity these institutions are. The doctors in charge of these institutions tour neighbouring villages periodically in a van and provide medical relief. In one of the primary health centres, a children's clinic is attached. To attend to delivery cases, as well as, offer pre-natal and post natal advice, qualified midwives have been appointed in sixteen new centres. The public have come forward to make liberal donations towards the construction of the buildings for primary health centres and maternity centres. This needs special mention here.

This area is famous for its Kangayam breed of cattle. Villagers in these parts look upon their farm animals only next to their own children. They feed and tend their cattle very carefully. Against certain

diseases which the local "Vaidhya" is not able to diagnose they feel helpless. In order to provide medical relief to the cattle, veterinary dispensaries have been started in four different places. The cost of the buildings in all these places is entirely borne by the public. Sites have also been donated by the villagers. To improve the breed of cattle rapidly, artificial insemination has been started in two of these dispensaries. An inquisitive journalist, who toured this area once, asked a villager how he felt about this artificial insemination business. "That is something new. Why not we give it a fair trial", came the sporting reply. In addition to the pucca dispensaries at these four places, there are veterinary first aid centres in six interior villages manned by livestock inspectors who render assistance in case of minor ailments of cattle. Two model poultry farms have been started in this project, the one rearing white leghorn while the other rears rhode island red. Before long it is hoped that all desi cocks will be replaced by pedigree birds.

Thanks to the Lower Bhavani Irrigation Canal, nearly two Lakhs of acres of additional land have been assured supply of water for dry crops. Cotton is the favourite crop in this area. Demand for improved seeds has been promptly met. Certain areas which would not even have raised a dry crop are now

growing paddy. Improved strains of paddy which are suitable to this area have been stocked and distributed to the ryots. Pests were promptly brought under control using pesticides by means of dusters and sprayers. Provision of credit for agricultural operations was particularly attended to. Bulldozers have been pressed into service and have reclaimed and brought under plough 16,000 acres of land. Some of the ryots were anxious to raise crops even during the off-season when there is no water in the canal by pumping water from wells. Wells in these parts are deep. Drawing water from them by means of bullocks is a gruesome task besides being costly. Enterprising ryots began to instal electric pumpsets which were found to be considerably cheap. The C. P. authorities have supplied 527 pumpsets to the ryots on credit to the tune of 11.5 lakhs of rupees. Extension of electricity was found to be greatly advantageous to the ryot. The project officials, therefore, hastened it to cover 16 villages costing nearly Rs. 7.5 lakhs.

Agriculture is no doubt the main occupation of the villager. But it could at best be a part time occupation only. Those engaged in it, do not have work all through the year. Further there are people who do not own lands of their own and who cannot secure employment in the land of others. To

these unemployed and under employed, it is very essential to find full employment. Several centres have been opened to train youngmen in new trades. Wardha ghanies have been started in four places. Basket making is being taught in two villages. People are being trained in extraction of palmyrah fibre in several villages. A training centre for the preparation of bullock shoe nails has been working for some time. A leather unit for the manufacture of chappals is providing full time employment for about twenty-five persons. More than one thousand charkas have been distributed. Our aim has been to put a few more coins into the hands of every villager so that he could have a few more morsels of food in his semi-starved stomach.

An attempt has been made in this project to provide decent well ventilated spacious houses even to the poorest ryot. Cheap designs to suit the needs of the ryot making use of local materials were evolved. The cheapest house costs Rs. 500/-. Half the amount is advanced as loan from community project funds. The ryot is advised to contribute the other half by labour, materials and cash. A modest beginning was made in a few villages at first, which rapidly spread to other places. There is a peculiar necessity to construct houses for the poorest harijans in this project. A lot of water is seeping

through the porous bunds of the Lower Bhavani Irrigation Canal. This seepage water stagnates in pits and low lying areas. Houses in such places get cracked and gradually fall down. Several hundreds of families have been so affected. As part of their programme the community project officials have helped the construction of nearly a thousand houses in this area.

If the amount spent from community project funds or the contribution made by the public were the only yard stick, this project could claim, with pardonable pride, to have some outstanding figures to its credit. 99% of our allotment has already been spent. The people of this area are competing with one another in offering their contribution for execution of more and more developmental works. The difficulty we now feel is to satisfy the demands made by the public for sanction of more works with government funds fast running out. But we are more inclined to measure our achievement by the extent to which we have made the life of the common man worth living. If we have made the crop in his land grow two ears of corn where one grew, if we have helped him to wear decent clothing instead of remaining naked, if we have provided him a rain proof house to live in, we consider, we have done our duty to the nation. All that we can claim to have done is that we have made a modest beginning in that direction.

# STUDENT CAMPS AND COMMUNITY PROJECT SCHEMES.

SRI C. D. RAJESWARAN, B. sc., (Econ.), (Lond.),  
Principal, Mahajana College, Erode.

It is generally said that in this country the educated are weaned away from rural surroundings and one of the main problems had always been how best to make the educated go back to their own villages and try to improve the lot of the people in rural areas. When the new river project schemes were started under the First Five Year Plan, the Government of India had rightly realised the importance of giving a new impetus to the people living in villages and make them feel self reliant so that they can fully utilize their opportunities of improving their economic lot. If we have to succeed in reducing the vast differences that exist between the urban and rural areas, providing them with irrigation facilities alone would not achieve this object.

One thing that our villagers lacked was initiative and they were always depending upon mere chances, putting trust in FATE. To get the people out of this rut, we have adopted the American method of Community Project, a method which was tried successfully in the United States of America where the residents of the backwoods of America were brought to a more modern level.

The service that is rendered by the Community Project

Organization is not providing certain additional advantages to the villagers as mere charity but make the villagers themselves undertake the work with a certain amount of financial aid and technical guidance. By this method, we have seen that the villagers themselves have contributed towards educational facilities in their areas, improved road communications and have taken to a better sanitary and civilised life. And if this work is to spread on a larger scale it could not be completely carried out by a Governmental department.

Herein I consider the linking up of Social service youth camps of student population with the Community Project could also bring the two sections of the population, the educated and the less educated - in closer touch with each other, and contribute for a more balanced development of the urban and rural sector.

From my practical experience, I found that when the Mahajana College students were camping in two villages in Erode Taluk under the guidance of the Community Project where they were constructing roads and some model huts, the villagers at first were viewing the whole work with a curious eye and even questioned the students why they should come and do this

kind of work leaving their studies. It was explained to them that they were doing it to help them, as without better sanitary conditions and educational facilities, they could not forge ahead in the modern world. The three weeks camp had so influenced the villagers that in addition to the roads constructed by the College students, they themselves organised volunteer hands and had repaired one or two other roads and it was also found that they began to take a keen interest on what the students could tell them about general sanitary condition. The

villages have certainly put up a better appearance from the sanitary point of view.

This method of linking up the students with Community Project organizations for betterment work would in course of time bridge the gulf that exists at present between the University educated and the rest and it would also make people feel that there is nothing wrong or derogatory in any kind of manual work and it would also create a better understanding between the various sections of the population.



Children's Clinic, Kolanalli.

# LOWER BHAVANI IRRIGATION PROJECT.

SRI V. A. KRISHNASWAMY, B. E.,  
Superintending Engineer, Designs, P. W. D., Madras.

THE Lower Bhavani Project as the name implies is a project to harness the waters of the River Bhavani in its lower reaches.

The Bhavani river is a tributary of the Cauvery and has a major portion of its course in the Coimbatore District of Madras State. It drains a catchment of 2376 sq. miles. It comes under the influence of both the Southwest and Northeast monsoons and carries ordinarily heavy freshes of the order of 50,000 cusecs and more. These freshes last only for a few days. At other times, the flow is barely sufficient for the old irrigation of 39,000 acres developed under the two anicuts on the river below the dam. The present scheme is to dam the river about ten miles upstream of Satyamangalam in Gobi taluk and store the floods and utilise the stored water as and when required.

The Lower Bhavani Project is the first scheme of some magnitude in this part of the State for irrigating dry crops with a canal system. The scheme was sanctioned as a postwar development scheme at a time when acute food shortage was felt in the country. The execution of this scheme has considerably relieved the distress of the people in the area affected by severe drought conditions due to continued failure of monsoon.

The dam is 28,862 feet long, of which 1,523 feet is of stone masonry in cement mortar and the rest an earthen dam of the most modern type.

The Lower Bhavani Project Main Canal takes off from the right flank of the Reservoir and runs for a length of 125 miles and bifurcates as 2 main distributaries. The canal affords irrigation facilities to 2,07,000 acres in Gobichettipalayam, Bhavani, Erode and Dharapuram taluks of Coimbatore District including a small extent of 4,000 acres in the Karur taluk of Trichy District. The idea is to raise cotton over half the area and millets over the remaining half by rotation year by year. Provision has however been made for raising wet crops on a limited area of 10,000 acres of low lying lands which may get water logged after the project area develops.

As originally conceived, the canal should have tailed into Kattuvvari, a tributary of the Noyyel River after traversing a distance of about 89 miles. All the area of 2,07,000 acres was to have been located in Gobi, Bhavani and Erode taluks only. But subsequently Government wanted to give relief to the famine affected area in the Dharapuram taluk where much distress had been caused by severe drought conditions due to

failure of monsoon for five successive years. To afford relief to the people in this famine stricken area, the canal was extended for another 35 miles below the Noyyal Valley providing irrigation facilities to an extent of 25,000 acres cutting out an equal extent in the irrigable area in the upper reaches.

Water supply for irrigation has been arranged between September and December for dry food crops and from September to March for cotton through a net work of canals and branches in the system. The object of fixing September as the commencement of irrigation season is to determine the Southwest monsoon conditions and the storage position in the Reservoir after meeting the demand of existing irrigation before water is turned on to new areas.

The canal is aligned on contour. All irrigation is on its left only. The canal is designed to discharge 2,300 cusecs at full supply at the head. Its normal width in the head reach is 111 ft. Full supply depth is 8.6 ft; Fall is 0.415 ft. per mile and velocity 2.37 ft. per second. The left bank carries a fair weather motorable road 12 ft. clear between dowels, while the right bank carries a 8 ft. pathway between dowels and will be just suitable for jeeps and cycles.

As the canal traverses an undulating country, it has to cross several spurs and valleys. The course of the canal is rather sinuous, straight reaches being few and far between. The canal goes in deep cutting in the spurs and in high embankments at the valleys. Where the cutting is very deep involving extensive rock cutting, the canal has been flumed to about half its width to minimise the rock cutting.

Camps and buildings which form a necessary adjunct to any irrigation project have been constructed for officers and staff. They have been planned with a long range view and built with an eye for their permanent utility. Project houses, suitable for camping officers have also been built at Satyamangalam, Gobi and Erode, three central places of importance in the commanded area. Besides these, rest sheds of the Dormitory type have been constructed along the canal line roughly at intervals of 10 miles to afford accommodation for subordinate staff camping in the locality.

The canal crosses a number of roads. Bridges have been constructed at all these crossings. The bridges built are of different types such as, R. C. slab, arched etc. types depending upon the conditions of site. The road width is kept as 12'-0" and 22'-0" to provide for single lane and double lane traffic depending upon the importance

of the roads. There are as many as 106 bridges in the entire length of the canal. This includes foot bridges also to give access for villages on either side of the canal at some places.

As the country in the course of the canal is very undulating with ridges and valleys, it has to cross a number of drainage courses. Minor courses in shallow valleys are diverted to the adjacent deeper valleys wherever feasible. The country fall at these crossings being generally as steep as  $1/200$ , there is sufficient headroom to take the canal over the drainage courses excepting in a few cases where the canal has to be syphoned under the drainage courses.

The cross masonry works are of different types designed to suit the conditions at site and depending upon other factors such as the discharge from the catchment etc. besides economy in construction. There are 192 Nos. of such works in the entire length of the canal.

Among the major cross drainage works in the Main Canal, the following deserve special mention :—

- (i) Aqueduct at mile  $15/6$  with 3 spans of 45 feet each with reinforced concrete arches.
- (ii) Aqueduct at mile  $45/4$  with 8 arches spans of 12 feet each and with canal surplus escape vents.

- (iii) Noyyell and Kattuvvari Aqueduct — Reinforced concrete box type ( $9' \times 7'$ ) internal dimensions of box with road-way on top.

Irrigation is carried on by a net work of distributaries and branches taking off from the Main Canal. There are as many as 73 such distributaries in the entire length of the canal. Of these 17 are major distributaries each irrigating over 2,400 acres while the rest are minor off-takes each irrigating upto 2,400 acres. Besides there are 118 direct sluices in the canal delivering water straight into field water courses. The Kugalur distributary is intended to irrigate 10,000 acres in Gobichettipalayam taluk, the Bhavani distributary is intended to irrigate 20,000 acres in Bhavani Taluk. The Unjalur distributary is intended for about 30,000 acres and the Chennasamudaram distributary for about 40,000 acres. Both are in Erode taluk and serve the bulk of the ayacut in the canal.

The distributaries are all taken on ridges to facilitate irrigation on both sides. As the country slope is rather steep being of the order of 1 in 200 and in exceptional cases even 1 in 100, this fall has to be negotiated by means of a number of drops in the canal system. These drops and other masonry works in the distributaries and its branches form a good number and there are as many as over 6,000 works in the entire system.

The execution of canal works was taken up in January, '49 and the construction programme was scheduled to cover a period of 6 years. But the pace was hastened and at the increased rate of progress, it was found possible to give supply to an extent of 5,000 acres in the head reaches during 1952-53 and for 30,000 acres in 53-54, 1,14,600 acres in 54-55 and 1,67,400 acres during 55-56. The entire ayacut is expected to be thrown open for irrigation during 56-57 season.

With the Project having become a '*fait accompli*', it has helped to increase the production of food stuffs and cotton. The yield from the area in a year of normal supply of irrigation water will be of the order 30,000 tons of millets and 40,000 tons of Kappas (cotton with seeds not removed by ginning) with possibilities of 60 percent increase in millets in a year of plentiful supply when two crops of millets will be possible. These are in addition to other indirect benefits, such as increased revenue through taxes, saving of food imports, development of new industries and better living conditions.

Side by side with the development of irrigation in the Project area, the Community Development works have also been started with a department of its own sanctioned for the purpose under the Five Year Plan. The aim of the Community Pro-

gramme is to revitalise the villages so that largely by a process of self-help with assistance from Government in the shape of technical services and supplies, they can march forward. In order to raise the standard of living, the villagers are made to exert themselves in the schemes put forward before them. It is thus, a people's programme conceived and executed by the people themselves. In the areas developed already and to be developed shortly in the Lower Bhavani Project ayacut, the community programme works are started in and around the villages by way of sinking wells, forming roads, constructing school buildings and Health centres and in various other directions also. In all these undertakings, the Public Works Department has got its share of service by way of rendering technical assistance, sanctioning estimates for works beyond the powers of the officers of the Community Project. The works are also frequently inspected and technical advice freely given. As the major irrigation programme is carried out by the Lower Bhavani Project, all other amenities are dealt with by the Community Project. With the end of the first five year plan, the area around the Lower Bhavani Project has been greatly benefited by these development schemes sponsored by Government.

## BHARAT SEVAK SAMAJ AND COMMUNITY PROJECT.

SRI R. K. VENKATASWAMY,  
Convener, Bharat Sevak Samaj, Erode.

THE aim of Bharat Sevak Samaj is to serve the people. The Samaj is an organisation of voluntary workers knit together by the sole consideration of service to the people of India. The branches of the Samaj in various parts of the country take up different items of work according to the needs of the locality. Here, in Coimbatore District, their enthusiasm for service has been canalised into useful channels with the advent of the Community Project. They have done some very splendid work in the area. It is described below.

The Community Project has been inaugurated in Lower Bhavani area on 2nd October 1952 by the then State Minister for Agriculture, Sri Naganna Gowd. At the beginning, villagers were highly suspicious of the officers who came to them professing to do good to them. How could the poor villager believe that the erstwhile tax collector could now bring a message of hope and service to the people? The average villager is very conservative. He is not carried away by anything merely because it is new. Its utility should be demonstrated to him. He must be convinced that below the gloss of novelty there is something really useful. It is here that the volunteers of the

Bharat Sevak Samaj came in handy to interpret the new mission of the officers to the people at large. Let me describe the work they have done in a few of the villages.

Nasianur is a village about five miles from Erode. Right from the very start of the community project in 1952, thanks to the energetic leadership of the local Bharat Sevak Samaj worker, Sri Sengottuvelappan, people began to take real interest in the programme. They extended hearty co-operation to the project staff in laying roads, sinking wells, organising recreation centres and construction of school buildings. In this single village alone and its hamlets, wells, drains, maternity centres, latrines, school buildings, recreation centres, children's parks, culverts and roads were done at a cost of over one lakh of rupees. A higher elementary school building at a cost of about Rs. 20,000/- is nearing completion with a contribution of Rs. 7,000/- only from the community project funds. One very pleasing feature about this village is that in one of its hamlets - Samigoundanpalayam - about nine pucca, well ventilated houses have been built for the harijans with drainage and a drinking water well. These houses are in close proximity to caste Hindu quarters, almost in

continuation of them. The Samaj workers have made the caste Hindus take an abiding interest in the uplift of the Harijans. The good treatment accorded by the Hindus is more than amply repaid by the infinite gratitude that the Harijans have for them. How I wish that the other villagers also emulate them. No wonder, therefore, that this village won the prize for being the best village in the area.

The volunteers of Bharat Sevak Samaj have distinguished themselves in another village in the neighbourhood. At Kanjikoil there is an equally enthusiastic worker in Sri Muthusamy. The Samaj volunteers have put up a building for the maternity centre, organised a madar sangam and built a recreation centre with the assistance of the community project officials. The entire village is now provided with drainage. A building for a higher elementary school at a cost of about Rs. 20,000/- is under construction with a contribution of Rs. 13,000/- by the people. The neighbouring hamlets are connected with the main village by good roads. Culverts have been provided wherever necessary. More than a lakh of rupees worth of works have been executed in this village after the advent of the community project.

Perundurai is another centre of samaj activity. The area has been added to the community project very late. In spite of this handicap, thanks to the enthusiasm of the local samaj

workers important of whom is Sriranga Gounder, maximum benefit has been derived. Almost every hamlet is connected with the main village by a good mud road. Several of them have since been metalled. Good drinking water wells have been sunk. In as many as eight villages protected water supply works are in progress. A school building costing about Rs. 10,000/- has been built with a public contribution of Rs. 6,000/-.

Because I write about the enthusiasm of the Bharat Sevak Samaj workers I do not wish to be misunderstood that the officials did not play their part. It is my experience that where an officer makes an effort to understand the difficulties of the villagers with sympathy, co-operation between officials and villagers is very appreciable. It is the responsibility of the officers to educate the ryots about the utility and usefulness of the new schemes put forward by them. It should be their aim to take the villager as their willing partner in the great undertaking that is being launched. The journey might be hard and difficult. Unless we have a trusted and willing partner by our side, chances are, we do not reach our destination at all. I am happy to state that the Lower Bhavani Community Project has been fortunate in securing officers who were admirably suited to the task. Besides the unstinted efforts of the villagers, the success of the

scheme in this area is due to the complete identification of the officers with the villagers.

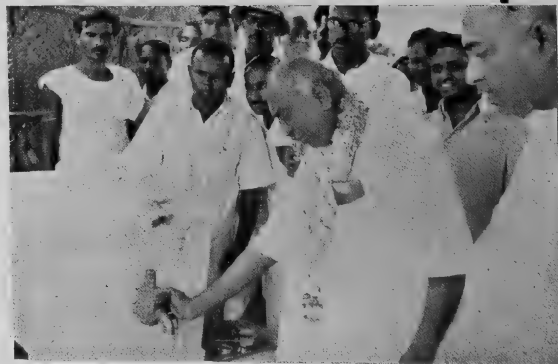
I have outlined how out of the co-operation of the officials and village workers, many lakhs worth of works have been completed. Impressive though these figures are, they are not all. The enthusiasm generated among the people for developmental activities, the confidence created in the villagers that they too have a right to live and live well, the consciousness developed among the poorest ryot that he too is taking part in the great experiment that is going on in this country cannot be sufficiently reflected in mere statistics.

The fire has been lit. It is for the future generation to keep it alive, and make use of it for noble purposes. That is a challenge and a responsibility which no one is better fitted than the Bharat Sevak Samaj to accept. Our admirable premier Jawaharlal Nehru once said "we want good men at the top to guide this great movement. But we want even more good men at the village level". If the Bharat Sevak Samaj can supply the good men of the latter category at the village level, it would have earned for itself an undying name and for the village permanent prosperity. May this selfless band of workers lead our great country into greater prosperity!



"Cleanliness Campaign"

PROTECTED WATER SUPPLY



VILLAGE INDUSTRIES



Basket Making



Fibre Extraction



Chappals Manufacture



Oil Ghani

## THE NEED FOR SMALL SCALE, COTTAGE AND VILLAGE INDUSTRIES IN INDIA TO-DAY.

SRI K. J. SOMASUNDARAM, M. A.,  
Community Project Officer (Industries), Erode.

THE talk everywhere in India to-day is to raise the standard of life of the masses in India. The reason is not far to find for this appalling low standard of life in the country. There is not enough work to go round all the people, at full time. There is unemployment and under-employment all over the towns and villages respectively. Indian agriculture has a striking feature which leave the cultivator with a lot of spare time. Our local cultivators sit idle for at least six months in the year. This varies greatly according to the local agricultural conditions. If such is the condition of the cultivators themselves, that of the landless labourers and village artisans whose numbers are increasing is even worse. There is, therefore, a tremendous waste of labour power in our villages.

In the cities, towns, and semi-urban areas, there are the educated unemployed. Acute unemployment prevails among young men leaving schools and colleges, since they have neither the advantage of any technical or vocational training nor are there any openings for them in factories, and workshops.

This state of chronic under-employment and unemployment is one of the main causes of the

low standard of living in the country. The remedy lies only in the development of Small Scale and Rural Industries either subsidiary or primary.

Work is the link between the individual and society. Idleness in individuals is the bane of society. Free India aims at a Welfare State which has for its goal a pattern of Society where all men will have equal opportunity and equal right to live, to earn for his living and to be paid for what he earns. But if there is enforced idleness there will be less production; consequently society will be left without the barest necessities of life. Income will be less; poverty will be the feature and life will naturally be at a low standard.

Therefore in the Second Five Year Plan we have taken the task of finding full time work for the unemployed and for the under-employed. Hence the need for occupation through industries, which will not only provide the required work removing the enforced idleness from them but also will produce those necessities that are basically required by the society. The Government have realised that they can play a decisive part in finding out, popularising and developing such Small Scale, Cottage and Village Industries.

To achieve this object the Government of India have set up twenty six Pilot Projects throughout the country as intensive areas for development of Cottage and Small Scale Industries in the Second Five Year Plan. Lower Bhavani Pilot Project Area is one of the 26 chosen areas in India. They have entrusted the work to six All India Boards to evolve the patterns of development in different industries. The broad pattern of development is along technical, commercial, educational and financial lines, through co-operative effort, wherever possible.

The six All India Boards referred to are as follows :—

**1. Khadi and Village Industries Board :**

- (a) Khadi  
Spinning  
Weaving  
Woollen blanket making.
- (b) Village Oil Industry.  
(Wardha Ghani)
- (c) Soap making from non-edible oil.
- (d) Leather tannery, flaying and utilisation of carcasses.
- (e) Gur and Khandsari.
- (f) Paddy husking and hand-pounding.
- (g) Cottage Match Industry.
- (h) Palm Gur.
- (i) Bee-Keeping.
- (j) Hand made paper.
- (k) Village pottery.
- (l) Fibre Spinning and Weaving.

**2. Handloom Board :**

The entire Handloom Industry. Cotton, Silk and Carpet-Weaving.

**3. Small Scale Industries Board :**

For purposes of intensive development, this board defines a Small Scale Industry as an Industry with total investment not exceeding 5 lakhs of rupees and which employs less than 50 persons if working with power or less than 100 persons if working without power.

**4. Handicrafts Board :**

This board deals with traditional crafts which have some special artistic value.

**5. The Coir Board :**

This deals with all products with cocoanut fibre.

**6. The Silk Board :**

This board deals only with the development of Silk derived both from sericulture and ericulture.

For promoting the above industries falling within the purview of small-scale, Cottage and Village Industries, the Centre have allotted funds which are made available through the medium of the All India Boards for approved schemes. The funds are sanctioned to the State Governments for implementation of the schemes.

As a result of the part played by Government we have in our domestic sphere started a few

industries to cut at the root of idleness and to increase production.

Industrial surveys with available staff were undertaken and some more have yet to be taken. With the existing data on hand the following industries have been implemented in our Pilot Project.

1. Wardha Ghani demonstration - cum - training units at :

- (a) Chittodu.
  - (b) Lakkampatti.
  - (c) Dhoddampatti.
  - (d) Sivagiri.
- (only demonstration)

2. Bamboo Workers training centres :

- (a) Kallipatti.
- (b) Kongarapalayam.

3. Distribution of 1000 Charakas to new spinners at subsidised rates. 22 Spinning Organisers tour in the villages teaching novices to learn spinning and earn in their spare time.

4. Blacksmithy training-cum-production centre at Karattupalayam.

5. Supply of Kifayat furnaces and improved implements free of cost to Palm Gur Producers Co-operative Societies.

Many more schemes are near-<sup>ing</sup> implementation. Still more are pending approval of the Government. It is also proposed to establish an Industrial Estate near Erode. It will provide factory space and yard with power, water, gas and other

facilities of a service nature to small industrialists. The individual on his own will find it difficult to provide himself with all these facilities before starting an industry. But in the Estate he will find all these readily provided for him for a surprisingly nominal rent. The goods produced will also find easy market through facilities made available for him in the Estate.

There are innumerable industries which can be developed as full time occupation for the unemployed and subsidiary occupation for the artisans and farmers who are under-employed. In many cases the industries are already there and what is necessary is merely an organisation of the producers and Government guidance and sympathy and help.

The time is now ripe when Governmental guidance, sympathy and help are more in supply than the actual demand. The people must realise this and take a bold step forward to seize the opportunity to get the maximum benefit. There must be a willingness on their part to shed their idleness habitual or forced and take work by the forelock and turn every working hour into a fruitful and productive endeavour.

There will be no need, in that case to know what is the need for small-scale, Cottage and Village Industries as these will be thriving everywhere and

none will be idle. The goal of maximum employment to the largest number and increased production shall have been achieved. The state of chronic under-employment and un-employment and the resultant low income would have vanished. The low standard of life in the

present India will become a thing of the past. Let us hope and pray for this dream to come true in the near future (and so the need for Small-Scale, Cottage and Village Industries, to-day,) not only in our Pilot Project but all over our country.



Model Poultry Farm, Kavandapady.



Hospital, Muthur



Hospital, T. N. Palayam



Maternity Centre, Nasianur

 VETERINARY AID 



Veterinary Dispensary, Bungalowpudur



Veterinary Dispensary, Kavandapady



Treatment of Cattle



Operation on a Dog

## IMPRESSIONS OF A TOUR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN THE SOUTH. \*

SRI P. S. DESIKACHARI,  
"The Mail", Madras.

COMMUNITY projects, N. E. S. schemes—these may sound like new slogans. But in a country like ours, particularly in South India, the underlying concept is as old as the soil, as ancient as our civilisation and culture. For we, steeped in traditions and community living, had always believed in corporate community life, helping each other not only in the interest of the individual, but also in that of the community, and to that end have always participated in what our Prime Minister characterised as "The great venture".

If only you have the opportunity, as I had, recently, of visiting these areas covered by the Community Project and N. E. S. schemes in our state, you will see, as I did in the company of my newspaper colleagues, the psychological, social and economic changes that are taking place in the villages.

With a party of a dozen pressmen in the state, I was taken round by the State Government on a ten day tour of Coimbatore, Malabar and South Kanara districts. The fourth project is in Madurai district. But the tour did not include that district. Wherever we went we saw that the people had come to realise

that in a country with such vast, unlimited man power, but limited resources, no Government with the best of intentions could achieve much, if the people themselves did not 'put their shoulders to the wheel'.

And that I say, is an important, significant factor, that explains the popularity and the usefulness of these schemes. There is, as it were, a new awareness among the masses of the need to co-operate with the Government in rehabilitating the villages, making them self-sufficient and making life in them not only comfortable, but interesting and beneficial to everyone. I personally felt, at the end of the ten day tour that, whatever some might say on grounds of political expediency, these project schemes have caught the imagination of the people and hence they would succeed, even where other approaches might have failed.

The Government had provided for Rs. 275/- lakhs for four districts—about Rs. 65/- for each—and of these nearly Rs. 75/- lakhs or so had been contributed by the people, including Rs. 28/- lakhs in cash and the balance in the shape of labour.

\* with the kind permission of A. I. R. Madras. This is the text of the radio talk broadcast on 8-4-1956.

We first went to the Lower Bhavani Project. What we were told was that more water was necessary for irrigation purposes in the Coimbatore district as the water supplied under the Lower Bhavani Project was meagre and insufficient for raising more than one crop in dry and also in wet land. The Executive Officer, young and enthusiastic at Erode, knows his job, having contacted hundreds of students committed to his care in a Madras College previously. He was tactful and dealt ably with big landlords some of whom were members of opposite camps with the result that he persuaded them to construct quarters for Harijans as well as poor Hindus who were left homeless by seepage water oozing from the Lower Bhavani canals. This was indeed a blessing in disguise because the seepage water ran through rivulets which were otherwise dry and encouraged agriculture stepping up food production.

We were glad to see the activities of our friend in the Legislative Assembly, Sri P. G. Karuthiruman, — the paddy crop grown under the Japanese system standing in his land about two or three feet higher than that in the adjoining land cultivated under the time old system, by other ryots, full of paddy awaiting the harvest.

We also met another member of the Madras Legislature, Pattagar of Palayakotta, worthy unit of a family engaged for

generations in breeding ~~the~~ Kangayam species of cattle hundreds of which were maintained in his farms. There were also a number among them of breeding bulls the like of which we had not seen before. No day passes, we were told, without a new calf arriving. He told us that the large quantity of milk from hundreds of cows was consumed in his own household, including numerous servants. He also breeds horses in his extensive forests. He generally sells for a fairly good price his surplus cattle. Another thing redounding to his credit was his gifting 12 acres of land and giving necessary help to construct an uptodate colony for poor Hindus whose whole village had been ruined by seepage water.

We also saw how turmeric, sugarcane, and other commercial crops were grown luxuriously at several places and we were struck with the hospitality of the people who offered us cane juice or cocoanut juice.

The Lower Bhavani Project is a splendid one, pleasing to the eye of the numerous visitors from and outside India, a feature there being the preservation of the original Bhavani idol in a newly constructed temple where daily worship is made. There were other activities including breeding of white Leghorns, artificial insemination, improvement to public health, schools to liquidate illiteracy, improving tanks and other water resources, cottage industries and maternity

centres in which the people were taking keen interest. Handloom weaving and Khadar cloth manufacture were largely in evidence, the latter particularly at Tiruppur.

The need of Malabar district was more and more electricity for domestic and industrial purposes. How the extra supply will be made is the problem. Another pressing problem is the impounding of storm water which now wasted itself into the sea, for irrigation purposes. We were there at a time when it was not the season for jack fruits, bananas, etc., which were therefore selling at fancy prices. The Malampuzha project has no doubt brought under cultivation and revitalised other areas which suffered from insufficient water supply. There was a wandering tribe, begging being its profession, and when the Government provided them with houses and land to eke out their livelihood, they would not cast off their old habit. We were pleased to see the revival of asanams, etc., at special schools receiving subsidy. Another pleasing sight was the institution which taught fencing etc., for self-defence purposes obviously. The most noteworthy factor was that social reform was making large strides. In one village houses were built for cobblers who were untouchables and unapproachables among the Harijans, on sites endowed by one

enlightened Narayana Nambudri, belonging to the orthodox Nambudri family and he took pride in being present at an entertainment in our honour by the cobblers. We arrived at the last lap of our sojourn, S. Kanara district, full of rivers, valleys and mountains. Here the problem is communications and necessarily construction of roads, culverts and bridges. These were rising rapidly and we were told that within a year or two their ambition would be fulfilled. Here not only the National Extension Service but also local development projects were proceeding apace, with the co-operation of the people who evinced keen interest in such development works.

We came across many community halls at different centres and we doubted the wisdom of having spent large sums of money thereon. The explanation was that the halls would promote social welfare and also serve as headquarters of local panchayats. New roads with hills passing between them had been constructed with local help, opening up new areas. Bridges had been constructed as outlets for villages which are locked up during the rainy season. At Madupadri we were struck with the all round progress as explained to us enthusiastically by the localities.

# AN EXPERIMENT IN RURAL HOUSING.

SRI. J. A. AMBASANKAR, M. A.,  
Project Executive Officer, Erode.

NEXT to food and clothing, house is a necessity for man. Even birds and animals choose to live in a cosy home. Some of them do so in a natural abode like a cave. Some build a nest of their own with a little effort. In the case of man, unfortunately, the comforts he could command by way of his dwelling are limited by his financial resources. Mere manual effort alone is not sufficient. He has to find money for it. And unless he could find enough of it, he lives in an apology of a house that is often no better than a pigsty. The problem is so vast that no Government, with the best of intentions, could undertake to build houses for the entire population. At best a few specific cases might be taken up and the problems arising out of them solved in a scientific manner. In this article I am setting out the result of an experiment in rural housing in Lower Bhavani Community Project.

At the outset let us realise the magnitude of the problem of rural housing. 83% of the population of India live in villages. There are in all 541 lakhs of units of rural dwellings. If we have no more ambition than to improve the existing houses spending Rs. 100/- over a hut and Rs. 250/- over a house for

purchase of building materials alone, we require Rs. 912 crores nearly a fifth of our outlay for the second five year plan. Besides the usual difficulty of finding finance, there is an equally difficult task of making available the building materials like bricks, timber and bamboo. Even then we would have touched but the fringes of the problem.

The problem is no doubt of staggering proportions. But a beginning has to be made by some one, some where at one time or other. A modest attempt was, therefore, made to find a decent house for the poorest man. We started with evolving designs of a cheap house. In so doing much thought, care and attention were necessary. Keeping the cost low could not be the only guiding principle. Good ventilation and sufficient space were given due importance. More than all these we had to consult the tastes of the ryot, who was to live in the house. After a good deal of discussion with the villager and the technical expert a plan for a house costing Rs. 500/- was drawn up. In the construction of such a house use was made of locally available materials like rough stone, palmyrah rafters and country wood. This house for Rs. 500/- consists of a kitchen

measuring  $8' \times 5' 3''$ , a living room  $11' 6'' \times 7' 3''$  and a verandah in front. The walls of the house are  $1' 3''$  in thickness and are built of random rubble in mud plastered over with lime mortar. The flooring is paved with cement. Mangalore tiles on palmyrah rafters form the roofing. The doors and windows are made of country wood.

The next question was finding finance. Both the State and Central Governments have set their face strongly against giving any subsidy for rural housing. A free grant of any portion of the cost of the house was, therefore, out of question. Half the cost of the building was advanced as loan from the community project funds. The loan carried a low rate of interest and was made repayable in twenty equal annual instalments. Rules for grant of loans as they then stood were very rigid. They required sureties either of persons or of some other property. The poor villager had no immovable property to offer as security. No other ryot will stand surety for him either. The rules for grant of loans were, therefore, revised. The site on which the house was to be built and the house that was going to be built were taken as surety. The other half of the cost of the building was to be borne by the villager in the shape of labour, building materials and cash.

These houses are meant for the poorest classes of people like the harijans. Invariably they

are living a hand to mouth existence. It is impossible for them to muster even Rs. 250/- in cash at any time. They cannot even work for half the amount as they live on the wages they earn every day. We, therefore, usually pitch upon, what we call a "sponsoring agent" who is the most influential person in the village. He enlists the sympathy of other villagers and obtains donations from them both in kind and in cash. Sometimes it is in the shape of carts given free for transport of materials. Sometimes it is in the shape of a Palmyrah tree. Several liberal minded gentlemen have come forward with handsome donations. I may mention a few. Sri N. Nallasenapathy Sarkarai Manradiar, M. L. C., Pattagar of Palayakottai, has freely given twelve acres of land for raising a whole village. He has, besides, offered his carts free of charge for transport of stones and other building materials. Out of his rich munificence, the village of Melapalayam has taken shape. In another village, in Kallipatti, Sri C. K. Kumaraswamy Gounder is putting up thirty houses for harijans in about two acres of land with only 50% loan from the community project. He does not collect any money from the harijans. He has agreed to bear the other half from his own funds.

We were straining local philanthropy to the utmost, when we got help from an unexpected quarter. In this project the

water seeping through the porous bunds of the Lower Bhavani Irrigation Canal stagnates in pits and low lying areas. Walls of houses nearby get cracked and fall in course of time. Several villages have been thus badly damaged. As a measure of rehabilitation the state Government have acquired about 200 acres of land and given it free to the affected people as house sites. They have, in addition, granted Rs. 100/- per family towards construction of houses. This has encouraged us to launch upon a bold programme of rural housing. Construction of about a thousand houses is nearing completion in thirty villages.

At the beginning we constructed a few houses here and there. As the programme gathered momentum, we found the task of marking the layout on ground and subsequent supervision of the work, a heavy burden on our staff. In fact, we had no special staff for this purpose. We had to indent upon the services of our regular establishment of engineers, supervisors and maistries, how had already enough work on hand. I would be failing in my duty, if I do not register here my deep debt of gratitude to my engineering and other staff,

who whole-heartedly co-operated with me, missing many a meal, in marking the lay out for several huge colonies. Further every week we had to disburse several thousands of rupees for the work turned out. Almost daily the construction work of nearly a thousand houses has to be supervised. We, therefore, formed a small body of non-officials to help us. Some of the members took a very keen interest in the work and relieved us a good deal of trouble.

When we want to construct a fairly large cluster of houses, we are confronted with the problem of planning a miniature village. Provision of educational facilities, of sanitary conveniences and of drinking water has to be made. The question arose as to who was to bear the cost of these common amenities. Each family has squeezed its resources to the utmost to build a house of its own in the new site. There was no possibility, therefore, of collecting any portion of the cost of these common amenities from the villagers. It would be in the fitness of things, if the state or Central Government bore, at least for the sake of encouraging the growth of model villages, the entire cost of these amenities.

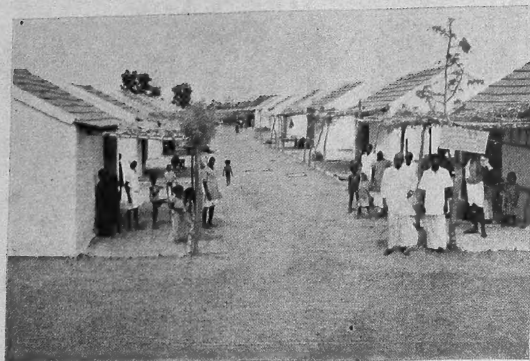
BEFORE



AFTER



COMPLETED COLONIES



Periakodiveri



Mandampalayam



Modakkurichi



Kallipatti

## LOWER BHAVANI COMMUNITY PROJECT OFFICIALS.

### *Development Commissioners :—*

1. Sri T. N. S. Raghavan, I. C. S.
2. Sri W. R. S. Sathianathan, I. C. S.

### *Additional Development Commissioners :—*

1. Sri T. S. Ramachandran, I. C. S.
2. Sri N. E. S. Raghavachari, I. C. S.

### *Joint Development Commissioner :—*

1. Sri G. Venkatachalapathy.

### *Collectors of Coimbatore District :—*

1. Sri E. P. Royappa, I. A. S.
2. Sri N. S. Mani, I. C. S.
3. Sri P. K. Nambiar, I. A. S.
4. Sri R. C. Joseph.

### *Project Executive Officers :—*

1. Sri N. Krishnaswamy.
2. Sri R. Balasubramanian, I. A. S.
3. Sri J. A. Ambasankar.

### *Community Project Officer (Industries) :—*

1. Sri K. J. Somasundaram.

### *Chief Social Education Organisers :—*

1. Sri A. P. Alagirisamy.
2. Srimathi S. Soundaram.

### *Assistant Engineers :—*

1. Sri M. Syed Abdul Huq.
2. Sri A. Anthonisamy.

*Assistant Project Officers :—*

1. Sri S. Subbaiyan.
2. Sri A. M. Subbarayan.
3. Sri R. Viswanathan.
4. Sri M. C. Guruswamy.
5. Sri C. Muthusamy.
6. Sri T. Kesavan Chetty.

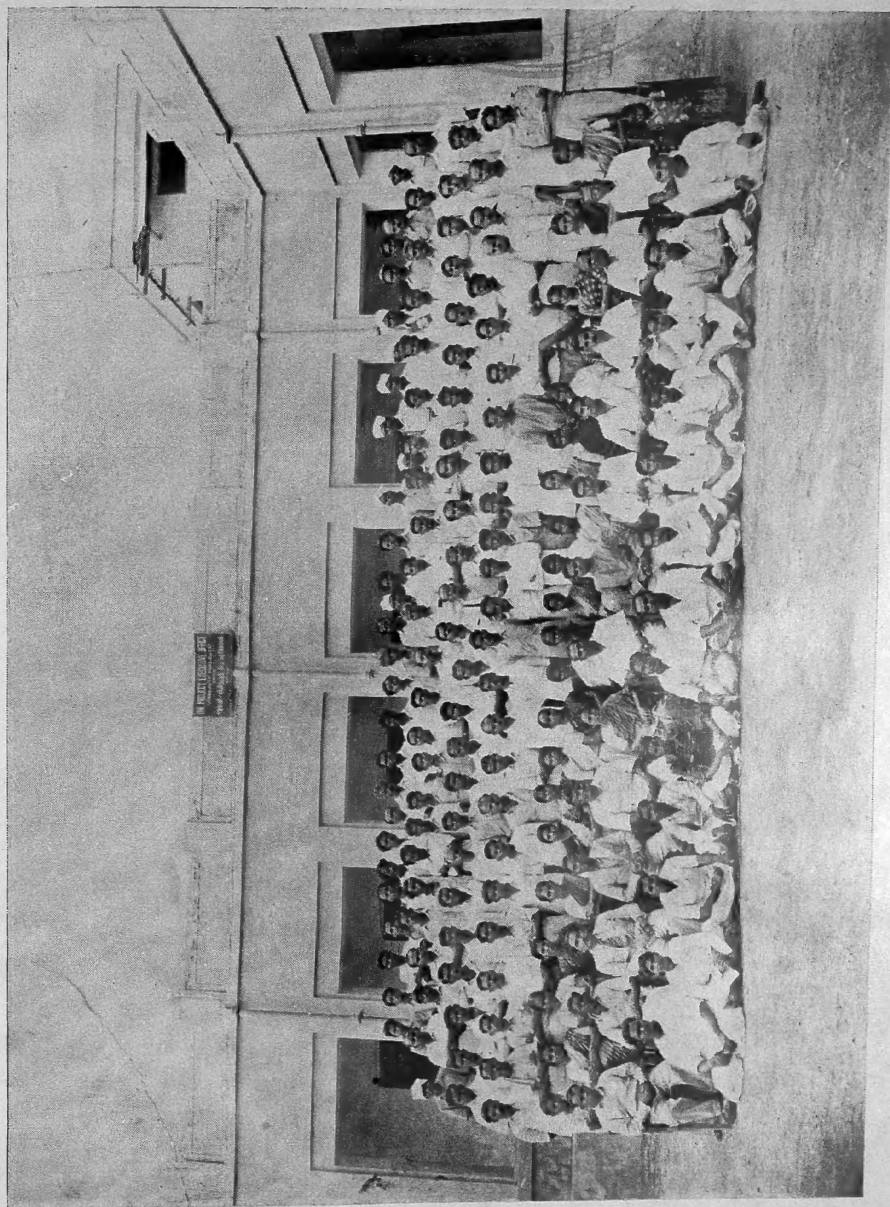


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